



LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION MEMO: 19-03
SUBJECT: Changes to Motorized Scooter Law Pursuant to
AB 2989

Memo Date: January 29, 2019

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Purpose

To inform law enforcement agencies of amendments to existing law pertaining to operation of a motorized scooter.

Background

Existing law, pursuant to California Vehicle Code (Veh. Code) §21235(b) prohibits operation of a motorized scooter on a highway with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour unless the motorized scooter is operated within a Class II bikeway. Veh. Code §21235(c) requires a person operating a motorized scooter to wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets standards described in Veh. Code §21212.

New Information

Effective January 1, 2019, Assembly Bill 2989 (Flora, Chapter 552, Statutes of 2018) amends existing law as follows:

- Veh. Code §21235(b) – Prohibits operation of a motorized scooter on a highway with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour unless the motorized scooter is operated within a Class II or Class IV bikeway. However, a local authority may authorize operation of a motorized scooter outside of a Class II or Class IV bikeway on a highway with a speed limit of up to 35 miles per hour.
- Veh. Code §21235(c) – Prohibits operation of a motorized scooter by a person under the age of 18 who is not wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards described in Veh. Code §21212.

Contact

Questions regarding the information contained in this memo or changes to the email distribution list may be directed to the Justice and Government Liaison Branch at (916) 657-7732 or via e-mail at jaglaw@dmv.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonia Huestis".

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