

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0032R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: President Cohen
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Jones, and Ramos
Introduced and adopted: August 18, 2025

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Safety Standards for Micromobility Devices and Batteries

FOR the purpose of declaring the City Council’s support for comprehensive safety standards for all micromobility devices and batteries manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for lease or rent within Baltimore City and calling on manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and lessors of these devices to voluntarily adhere to specified safety standards.

Recitals

Baltimoreans use micromobility devices, such as electric bicycles and scooters, as a key mode of transportation as they travel to work, run errands, and otherwise enjoy the City. With the rise of electric bicycles, scooters, and other personal micromobility devices, ensuring compliance with proven safety standards is essential to preventing hazardous fires and protecting consumers and property, while also supporting sustainable innovation.

The increasing prevalence of micromobility devices has been accompanied by alarming reports of battery-related fires, explosions, and other hazards. For micromobility devices that do not meet safety standards, there is a heightened risk of lithium-ion batteries experiencing a cascading failure, where excessive heat generation triggers toxic gas release, explosions, or fire spread.

Between 2021 and 2022, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission received reports from 39 states of at least 208 incidents involving fires or overheating related to electric bicycles and personal e-mobility devices, resulting in 19 fatalities.

Consensus-based, American nationally-accredited safety standards developed by Underwriter Laboratories Standards and Engagement (ULSE), a nonprofit safety advocacy organization, have proven effective in mitigating these hazards. In 2022, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommended that manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers design, manufacture, and certify micromobility devices to the appropriate ULSE standards. Doing so helps reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities. Independent third-party certification promotes product safety and consumer protection.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 The City Council calls on all manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and lessors of micromobility
2 devices and batteries in the City to voluntarily adopt the following safety measures in alignment
3 with ULSE's guidance:

4 1. Adopt the following certification standards:

5 (a) Test and certify electric bicycles to the UL 2849 electrical and fire safety
6 standard;

7 (b) Consult an accredited certification body to ensure personal
8 e-mobility devices align with the UL 2272 standard; and

9 (c) Test traction batteries and ensure they align with the UL 2271
10 safety and performance standard;

11 2. Use visible certification marks from nationally-recognized certification bodies to help
12 consumers identify products that meet established safety benchmarks;

13 3. Pursue enhanced consumer awareness and public safety initiatives:

14 (a) Initiate educational campaigns that inform consumers on proper charging,
15 storage, and disposal of micromobility batteries to minimize risks; and

16 (b) provide local training to first responders on how to safely handle
17 micromobility battery-related fire hazards; and

18 4. Comply with safety recommendation and conduct regular safety reviews to ensure
19 continued adhere to best practices.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
21 Council expresses its support for comprehensive safety standards for all micromobility devices
22 and batteries manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for lease or rent within Baltimore City
23 and calls on manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and lessors of these devices to voluntarily adhere
24 to specified safety standards.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
26 Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing, the Director of Transportation, the
27 Chief of the Baltimore Fire Department, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.