

Amended Substitute House Bill 62
Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee
Donovan O'Neil - SCOOTERCBus

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Uecker and Ranking Member Antonio, thank you for the opportunity to address the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee on HB62 – the FY 2020/2021 State Transportation Budget.

My name is Donovan O'Neil. I am here today to speak specifically on the aspects of the transportation budget that deal with "low-speed electric scooters". I live in central Ohio and like many of you was fascinated last summer when these curious devices called Bird and Lime started popping up around Cap Square. It was at that time I started an effort on social media called @SCOOTERCBus, with a goal to advocate for safe ridership & soft-touch common sense regulation.

Sub HB62 creates a legal definition in Ohio for "low-speed electric scooters". This definition is meant, as I understand it in news reports, to cover what are commonly known as "Dockless Rideshare Scooters". Here in Columbus the service is generally provided by Bird or Lime. While a legal definition is welcome, quite candidly, the language in the House passed sub bill will outlaw kids from using their toys on sidewalks, parks, or their own neighborhood.

Government will always be just a little behind the curve for innovation. We saw the same with the rise of ride-share like Uber and Lyft. But like the due diligence lawmakers, many of whom are on this committee today, gave to those Transportation Network Companies – I would encourage the same with dockless rideshare.

I encourage this committee to remove the language regarding "low-speed electric scooters" from Sub HB62 and have separate legislation attempt to address interested party concerns with dockless rideshare devices.

Chairman McColley, my comments were brief out of respect for the work this committee has in front of it. But I felt compelled as someone who was engaged on this issue locally to take a moment and raise this concern. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.