

ORDINANCE

NO. _____

An Ordinance amending the Columbus Code to add a new Article V to Chapter 11 to require safety standards pertaining to powered bicycles, powered mobility devices and storage batteries; and for other purposes.

SECTION 1.

Chapter 11 of the Columbus Code is hereby amended by replacing the current Article V which is marked as reserved with a new Article V which shall read as follows:

“Article V- Powered Bicycles, Powered Mobility Devices, and Storage Batteries

Section 11-41.- Definitions.

Powered bicycle means a bicycle with electric assist.

Powered mobility device means an electric scooter or other personal mobility device powered by a lithium-ion or other storage battery. The term does not include powered bicycles, wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for use by persons with disabilities, or any vehicle that is registered with the State of Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Stock keeping unit means each group of items offered for sale of the same brand name, quantity of contents, retail price and variety.

Section 11-42.-Applicability.

- (a) This ordinance shall apply to all individuals or entities associated with the sale, lease, and/or rental of powered bicycles, powered mobility devices, and storage batteries as part of a commercial business.
- (b) Any individual or entity associated with the sale, lease, and/or rental of powered bicycles, powered mobility devices, and storage batteries already in business prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall have a twelve-month grace period to come into compliance with this ordinance.

Section 11-43. – Safety Standards

- (a) No person shall distribute, sell, lease, rent or offer for sale, lease or rental a powered bicycle unless:
 - 1. The electrical system for such bicycle has been certified by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2849, or such other safety standard as the jurisdiction has established by rule in consultation with the fire department; and
 - 2. Such certification or the logo, wordmark, or name of such accredited testing laboratory is displayed on packaging or documentation provided at the time of sale for such powered bicycle; or directly on such powered bicycle or the battery of such bicycle.

(b) No person shall distribute, sell, lease, rent, or offer for sale, lease, or rental, a powered mobility device unless:

1. The electrical system for such powered mobility device has been certified by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2272, or such other safety standard as the jurisdiction has established by rule in consultation with the fire-EMS department; and
2. Such certification or the logo, wordmark, or name of such accredited testing laboratory is displayed on packaging or documentation provided at the time of sale for such powered mobility device; or directly on such powered mobility device or the battery of such device.

(c) No person shall distribute, sell, lease, rent or offer for sale, lease or rental a storage battery for a powered bicycle or powered mobility device unless:

1. Such storage battery has been certified by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2271, or such other safety standard as the jurisdiction has established by rule in consultation with the fire-EMS department; and
2. Such certification, or the logo, wordmark, or name of such accredited testing laboratory is displayed on packaging or documentation provided at the time of sale for such storage battery; or directly on such storage battery.

Section 11-44. -Exceptions

No powered bicycle or powered mobility device, or storage battery for a powered bicycle or powered mobility device, shall be required to display the certification or the logo, wordmark, or name of an accredited testing laboratory as required by Section 11-43 above if such powered bicycle, powered mobility device, or storage battery is being sold or leased second-hand, or rented in a transaction between private individuals who are not in the business of selling or leasing such devices **and** the device does not include packaging or printed documentation, at the time of distribution, sale, lease, rental or offer for sale, lease or rental, as applicable.

Section 11-44. -Penalties.

Any person violating any provision of this article shall, upon conviction in the recorder's court, be punished as provided in [section 1-8](#) of this Code. Forfeiture of a cash bond in lieu of appearance in recorder's court by the person cited for a violation of this article shall not be a bar to a subsequent prosecution for the same violation. Any person violating any provision of this article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same business location. Each sale or lease which fails to comply with Section 11-43 with respect to any one stock keeping unit constitutes a separate violation.”

SECTION 2.

If any part of this ordinance conflicts with any other applicable federal, state, or local regulation, the more restrictive regulation shall control.

SECTION 3.

If any section, clause, portion or provision of this ordinance is found unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect any other portion of this ordinance.

SECTION 4.

This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after signing by the Mayor and transmission to the Clerk of Council.

SECTION 5.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 8th day of July 2025; and introduced on second reading at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of ____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Anker	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor