

Governor Phil Murphy

Acting Governor Scutari Signs Law Allowing Alcohol Consumption in Pedicabs

06/4/2022

ASBURY PARK – Acting Governor Nick Scutari today signed a law that will regulate the operation of pedicabs and permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in pedicabs. Senate President Scutari, who is serving as Acting Governor, highlighted the signing at an event at Robinson Ale House in Asbury Park.

“Pedicabs offer the opportunity to create a new business sector that will breathe added life into local economies,” said **Acting Governor Scutari**. “This will give pedicab operators every chance to succeed under a safe, well-regulated environment.”

The legislation, S-1505/A-462, was sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal and Senator Linda Greenstein in the Senate, and by Assemblyman Joe Danielsen and Assemblyman Calabrese in the Assembly.

“This new law will allow our local small businesses such as pedicabs to compete and continue to prosper within the hospitality industry,” said **Senator Gopal**. “Pedicabs are mom-and-pop small businesses and our support for this growing small-business sector is important.”

The law is designed to help pedicab operators thrive and to give New Jersey residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor, small group leisure activity that is well-regulated. Until now, New Jersey law did not allow passengers to drink alcohol while riding in pedicabs.

“Pedicabs are a fresh and new way to help our local businesses thrive, to support and alleviate some of the impacts New Jersey business owners still face from the Covid-19 Pandemic,” said **Senator Greenstein**. “Permitting alcoholic consumption for passengers on pedicabs is a great way to promote downtown nightspots and other businesses safely.”

Under the law, pedicabs will be able to operate under the following conditions:

- the pedicab has been authorized to operate by ordinance of its municipality;
- the operator must be 21 years old and possess a driver’s license;
- the vehicle must be equipped with seatbelts, brakes, reflectors, headlights, and grab rails;
- the operator of the pedicab cannot drive on roadways with speed limits in excess of 30 miles per hour.

Under the law, the actual operator of the pedicab will not be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages while operating the vehicle, nor could the owner or operator sell passengers food, alcoholic beverages or any other liquid refreshments.

Alcoholic beverages allowed on the pedicab will be limited to single-serving, sealed containers of: beer; wine; hard cider; mead, other malt beverages; other fermented beverages, such as hard seltzer and hard tea; and prepared mixed beverages made with spirits. Each passenger of a pedicab will be required to be least 21 years old.

“As our economy continues to recover from the pandemic, it’s critical to give small business owners like pedicab operators every opportunity to grow their businesses and succeed,” said **Assemblyman Joe Danielsen**. “This new law will provide much needed guidance for their operations to protect both the driver and passengers.”

The law defines a “pedicab” as a wheeled device that contains three or more wheels, operates manually with pedals, transports passengers for hire, and accommodates no more than 15 passengers.

Today’s action will bring New Jersey into alignment with other states, including California, North Carolina, and Louisiana, that allow alcohol on board pedicabs.

Joining with Acting Governor Scutari and Senator Gopal at Robinson Ale House in support of the new law were Christine Buteas of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, Eileen Kean of the National Federation of Independent Businesses and Jesse Pomeroy, owner of Asbury Pedalcycle (https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/bm94ch/7ys5259b/j0dkdx_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtBA!PIEGzDt1ljSTcn6YbXMkxuZLw0j5YN6Zad62L-SS2_GU1zJvqnBjgKLzjugq4nEAE3upfYR1tZVpGRUGVAeerHeYS).

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