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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT



PA Senate Bill 1199 Would Replace Family Sustaining Jobs with Robots

28 Republicans, 2 Democrats and 1 Independent Voted in Favor of Using Robots to Make Deliveries, Thus Displacing Their Constituent's Jobs

19 Democrats Voted Against the Use of Robots to Replace Jobs Done by the Hard-Working Men and Women in PA

Pa. House panel weighs bill that would authorize robot deliveries of groceries and packages



By Jordan Wolman | For PennLive.com Jul 21, 2020

An article posted on Pennlive© stated that the PA Senate moved quickly to pass [a bill to legalize personal delivery devices](#), or PDDs, the House Transportation Committee slowed the process down to hear from a host of stakeholders about the legislation.

PDDs are small devices that can operate autonomously to deliver cargo — like groceries or mechanical parts — to individuals or businesses. They are battery-powered and produce zero emissions and are most effective when making deliveries within a three to five-mile radius.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Ryan Aument, R-Lancaster County, passed the Senate by a [31-19](#) vote on June 30. It could head to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk for signature if it clears the House. A spokeswoman for Wolf would not say if the Democratic governor has formed an opinion yet on the bill.

The bill would allow PDDs to operate on sidewalks at no more than 12 miles per hour and on the shoulders of roadways at no more than 25 miles per hour. The operator of the device must be within 30 feet of it until 2022, at which point the device could potentially then be controlled entirely remotely. And the device could weigh up to 550 pounds before cargo is loaded — a provision that would allow much heavier PDDs in Pennsylvania than in other states with similar laws.

Photo: The FedEx personal delivery device, Roxo, Photo courtesy of FedEx