

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

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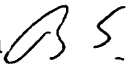
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SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Albert Kookesh, Chairman
Senate Transportation Committee

From: Senator Bert Stedman 

Date: January 26, 2009

Subject: Request for Hearing

I respectfully request that Senate Bill 59, "An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles", be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee at your earliest convenience.

Attached is the following documentation:

- Sponsor Statement
- Senate Bill 59
- Background Information on Electric Cars

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact me or my aide Weston Eiler. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

DISTRICT A

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SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 59

“An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles”

In recent years, electric cars have progressed so they now come with all the necessary safety equipment as regular passenger vehicles. The use of low-speed electric vehicles has extended beyond golf communities and they are showing up in our towns. This new breed of electric car can help reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and provide a cheaper, environment-friendly transportation option for Alaskans.

Current law only allows electric cars to operate on roads in Alaska with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less. In communities throughout Alaska, owners of electric cars are seeking access to more roads. If enacted, SB 59 will allow low-speed electric vehicles to travel on roads in Alaska with posted speed limits of 45 mph or less.

Larger communities may not want low-speed electric vehicles traveling on roads with high traffic volume for safety purposes. AS 28.35.261 (c) gives any municipality the ability to opt-out and restrict the operation of low-speed vehicles within its jurisdiction. However, many small communities throughout Alaska have few road miles and low traffic volume providing a suitable environment for electric cars. SB 59 will give individual communities the opportunity to increase electric car usage if they so choose.

Contact: Weston Eiler, Legislative Aide to Senator Bert Stedman at (907)-465-3873

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SENATE BILL NO. 59

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEDMAN

Introduced: 1/21/09

Referred: Transportation, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles."**

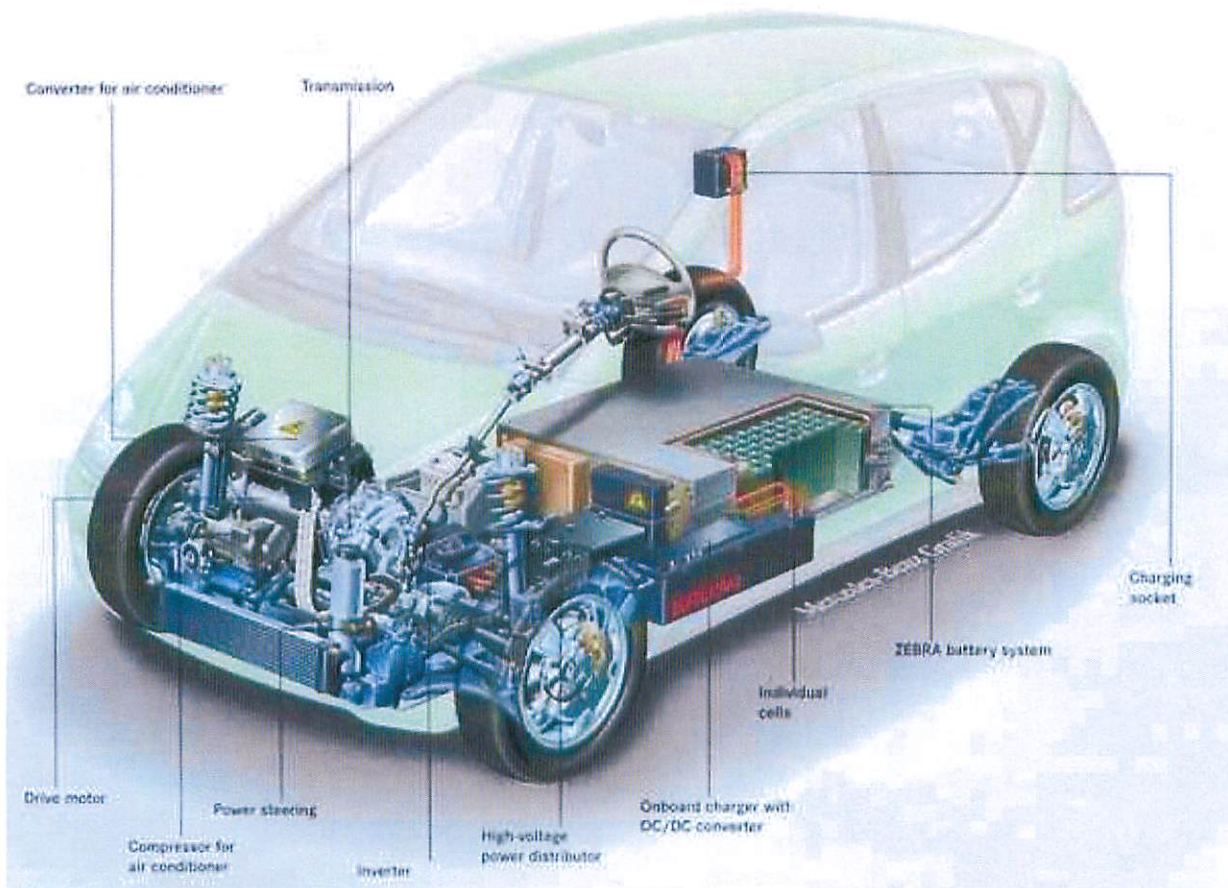
2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 28.35.261(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) The operator of a low-speed vehicle may not operate that vehicle on a
5 highway that has a maximum speed of more than 45 [35] miles an hour.
6 Notwithstanding this subsection, the operator of a low-speed vehicle may cross a
7 highway that has a maximum speed limit of more than 45 [35] miles an hour if the
8 crossing is made at the intersection with a highway that is authorized for low-speed
9 vehicles.

Electric Cars You Can Drive

Electric cars and its hybrid technology is a burgeoning market, and the chance for America to become energy-independent is on everyone's minds as of late. No one wants to be paying for gasoline, when an 8-hour charge can get them much, much more for their time and money. When you read about these vehicles, keep in mind that this technology is new, but it's reliable.



Electric Cars Available in 2008

Tesla Roadster Electric Car
GEM Electric Car
Dynasty iT Sedan Electric Car
ZENN Electric Car
Zap Xebra Electric Car
Aptera Type-1



Miles EV ZX-40 ~ Retail: \$14,750

Aptera Type-1

Google has finally decided to weigh in on the whole “eco-friendly automobile movement” by pouring \$2.75M into Aptera Motors, the makers of their Type-1 vehicle, which holds a price tag of \$30,000, gets 230+ MPG, and looks like something that came out of The Jetsons.

While it may not be an amazingly large amount of money, Aptera hopes that it will bring their Type-1 vehicle (seen below) to Market fairly soon – and we all hope that too. We can't help but wonder if anyone is yet thinking about how this could change the [auto transport](#) industry.



Dynasty iT Sedan

The Dynasty iT Sedan is manufactured by Dynasty Electric Car Corp., originally located in Canada. It was recently acquired by a Pakistani automobile company, and now is in the process of moving all the manufacturing facilities to Pakistan.

They only have a few cars available in the US, and they sell for roughly \$20,000 (and for a six hour charge you'll get a range of 30 miles).



GEM Car

This Chrysler-built, golf-cart-like electric car is much more affordable than the [Tesla Roadster](#), with a price point of around \$10,000. However, you get what you pay for.

While this is a great around-town vehicle it won't be giving you any major mileage any time soon. It has a range of 30-40 miles on an 8 hour charge, and its total top speed is 25 mph.

This is a great vehicle for everyday errands, and its different versions offer seating for up to six and either a flat-bed or a trunk.

