

## An Act relative to electric bicycles



**H.3457**

**Representative Dylan Fernandes  
Representative Steven Owens**

**S.2309**

**Senator Sal DiDomenico**

### CHANGES TO MASSACHUSETTS E-BIKE LAW

This bill would regulate low-speed electric bicycles like bicycles. The same rules of the road would apply to both e-bikes and human-powered bicycles when it comes to speed, proper passing, following local traffic laws, obeying posted speed limits, and other state and local ordinances.

Changes to the Massachusetts General Laws would define an electric bicycle as a device with two or three wheels which has a saddle and fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor having a power output of not more than 750 watts. An electric bicycle would meet one of the following three classes:

- » **CLASS 1:** Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
- » **CLASS 2:** Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
- » **CLASS 3:** Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 28 mph.

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#### These regulatory updates would also mean that:

- » The definitions of “motorized bicycles” or “motor vehicles” would exclude that of an electric bicycle
- » Helmets would be required for riders of Class 3 e-bikes
- » Persons under 16 years of age would not be able to ride a class 3 e-bike, unless as a passenger
- » All e-bike manufacturers must apply a standard label to each e-bike specifying its type and wattage
- » Any tampering or modification of the motor would require the replacement of the standard label

### With an e-bike, more bicyclists can ride more often, ride farther, and ride for everyday trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, and they remove barriers to riding in ways that benefit bicyclists of all types, for commuting longer distances and over hills, enjoying outdoor recreation, improving physical fitness, facilitating healthy aging with older adults, and helping parents take their kids to school.



Currently, MA law has e-bikes regulated under antiquated definitions, primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. **This change would place MA more in line with federal standards and 42 other states & the District of Columbia.**



Galen Mook, Executive Director, Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition  
galen@massbike.org | 617.542.BIKE (2453)