

Electric Bicycles in Vermont Law

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Definitions – Electric Bicycle

- “Electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.
- Three classes of e-bikes:
 - Class 1:
 - Motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling.
 - Motor ceases to provide assistance when bicycle reaches 20 mph.
 - Class 2:
 - Motor can propel the bicycle on its own (i.e. no pedaling required).
 - Motor is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 mph.
 - Class 3:
 - Motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling.
 - Motor ceases to provide assistance when bicycle reaches 28 mph.
- Electric bicycles are **not** considered motor vehicles.



Regulation of E-Bikes (23 V.S.A. § 1136a)

- E-bikes are required to comply with U.S. CPSC requirements, and motor must disengage when rider stops pedalling or applies brakes.
- Class-3 e-bikes must be equipped with a speedometer.
- E-bikes are required to be labelled with class number, top speed, and motor wattage.



Regulation of E-Bikes (23 V.S.A. § 1136a)

- Generally treated the same way as regular bicycles.
 - Exempt from registration, inspection, title, operator's license requirements, insurance, and requirements applicable to ATVs.
- E-bikes can generally be ridden where bikes are allowed, except:
 - E-bike use may be prohibited on bike paths and multi-use trail and may be regulated on "natural surface" trails.
- Class 3 e-bikes may not be operated by an individual under 16 years of age (may ride as a passenger).

Motor-Assisted Bicycle

- “Motor-assisted bicycle” means:
 - any bicycle or tricycle;
 - with fully operable pedals;
 - equipped with a motor that in itself is capable of producing a top speed of not more than 20 mph on a paved level surface when ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds and either:
 - has an internal combustion motor with a power output of not more than 1,000 watts or 1.3 horsepower; or
 - has an electric motor with a power output of not more than 1,000 watts and is not an e-bike.





Regulation of Motor-Assisted Bicycles

- Generally treated the same way as regular bicycles.
 - Exempt from registration, inspection, and operator's license requirements.
- Not permitted to be operated on sidewalks.
- May not be ridden on a highway by a person under 16 years of age.
- Use may be regulated by municipalities.

Motor-Driven Cycles

- Any vehicle equipped with two or three wheels.
- Power source providing up to a maximum of two horsepower .
- If combustion engine is used, maximum displacement is 50 cubic centimeters.
- Motor capable of propelling it to no more than 30 mph on a level road surface.
- Equipped with a power drive system that functions directly or automatically only, not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.





Regulation of Motor-Driven Cycles

- Considered motor vehicles and treated similarly to motorcycles.
 - Exempt from title requirements.
- Must be at least 16 years of age and have an operator's license to operate a motor-driven cycle.
- Subject to an annual registration fee of \$34.00.