

House Bill 1148
House Transportation Committee
Representative D. Ruby, Chairman

Chairman Ruby and members of House Transportation Committee, my name is Sergeant Wade Kadrmas and I am the Safety and Education Officer for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The highway patrol takes a neutral position on House Bill 1148 but would like to provide information for your consideration.

The highway patrol fields a variety of questions regarding vehicles, not only passenger cars and commercial motor vehicles, but also motorized bicycles and off highway vehicles and will likely field questions about electric bicycles. After this bill was introduced, I researched what other states have done to address potential safety concerns of electric bicycles. I have provided a 2019 document that the State of Montana Transportation Interim Committee put together regarding electric bikes and scooter (motorized bicycle) laws for each state. The document includes a table containing electric bicycle laws by state and province. This table was put together by the Transportation Research and Education Center, Portland State University, which was funded by U.S. Department of Transportation. This table provides an informative overview of laws guiding the use of electric bicycles.

House Bill 1148 proposes the implementation of an electric bicycle classification system. This system outlines three different classes. A Class Three electric bicycle can reach speeds of up to twenty-eight miles per hour. Since some electric bikes can reach that speed, the patrol requests the committee discuss and consider safety measures similar to other states where a minimum age limit is set for operators of a Class III electric bicycle and a helmet is required for all operators and riders under the age of 18. I have also provided a copy of South Dakota's 2019 electric bicycle law that includes similar safety requirements we are suggesting.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.