

HOUSE BILL 1148  
Transportation Committee  
January 21, 2021

Mr. Vice-Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee I am Dan Ruby, Representative from District 38. I'm here to introduce House Bill 1148 which will clear up confusion for small businesses in the state and their customers pertaining to where these bicycles may be ridden.

North Dakota lacks specific vehicle classifications and it is unclear how they are regulated. They may be interpreted to fall within terms primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters.

The goal of HB 1148 is to clearly define electric bicycles, and provide clear rules with respect to how they must be equipped and operated and clear enforcement guidelines for public safety officials, consistent with the 43 states that have incorporated electric bicycles into their traffic codes. The classification system that is the foundation of 1148 aligns North Dakota law with the three main forms of product that are currently on the marketplace with the federal definitions of an electric bicycle, as well as consistent standards and rules for these devices.

I will run through the changes in the bill. Page 3 subsection 3 updates the definition of bicycle and adds electric bicycles. Page 5 subsection 19 describes the three classifications of electric bicycles. Pages 9, 10, 12, and 16 add exclusions for electric bicycles. Also on page 16 they are excluded from title requirements. On page 17 are provisions pertaining to the use and limitations for electric bicycles. The rest of the changes in the bill are more exclusion added to other types of vehicle definitions.

What this all boils down to is to ensure that electric bicycles aren't classified as motor vehicles that would require them to be titled, registered and prohibited from using bike trails. Without surety with their classification they could be considered a vehicle similar to a motorcycle, which they clearly are not. Mr. Vice-Chairman and members of the committee, there are others here to testify on this bill so I will stop here to answer questions and would like your favorable consideration for a Do Pass Recommendation.