

Summary of electric bicycle age restrictions and helmet laws in states with three class system

State	Electric bicycle age limit	Helmet law (bicycles - also applies to electric bicycles)	Additional helmet laws (electric bicycle only)	Driver's license required?	Citations
Arizona	None.	None.	None.	No	N/A
Arkansas	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	Class 3 only - riders under age 21.	No	Ark. Code Ann. § 27-51-1706
California	Class 3 only - must be 16.	Riders of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates/roller blades under age 18.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	Cal. Veh. Code §§ 21212, 21213.
Colorado	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	Class 3 only - riders under age 18.	No	C.R.S. § 42-4-1412
Connecticut	Class 3 only - must be 16.	Riders of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates/roller blades under age 16.	All riders.	No	Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 14-289k, 14-286d.
Florida	None	All riders under age 16.	None.	No	Fla. Stat. §§ 316.2065.
Georgia	Class 3 only - must be 15.	All riders under age 16.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	Ga. Code §§ 40-6-303, 40-6-296.
Idaho	None.	None.	None.	No	N/A
Illinois	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	None.	No	625 ILCS 5/11-1517(h)
Indiana	Class 3 only - must be 15.	None	Class 3 only - riders under age 18.	No	IC 9-21-11-13, 1(K)(3),(5)
Louisiana	Class 3 only - must be 12.	All riders under age 12.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	R.S. 32:204(G)-(H), 32:199
Maine	Class 3 only - must be 16.	All riders under age 16.	All riders under age 16.	No	29-A M.R.S.A § 2063, sub-§14(H), § 2323(1)
Maryland	Class 3 only - must be 16.	All riders under age 16.	None.	No	Md. Code Ann., Trans. § 21-1205, 2(B), 21-1207.1
Michigan	Class 3 only - must be 14.	None.	Class 3 only - riders under age 18.	No	MCL § 257.662a(4).
New Hampshire	Class 3 only - must be 16.	All riders under age 16.	Class 3 only - riders under age 18.	No	N.H. Rev. Stat. §§ 265:144-a(X)-(X), 265:144(X).
New Jersey	None.	All riders under age 17.	None.	No	N.J.S.A. 39:4-10.1.
New York	None.	All riders under age 14.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law §§ 1238-5.
Ohio	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	O.R.C. § 4511.522(D).
Oklahoma	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	None.	No	47 O.S. § 11-1209(F)
South Dakota	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	Class 3 only - riders under age 18 and passengers.	No	SDCL §§ 32-20B-13, 32-20B-14
Tennessee	Class 3 only - must be 14.	All riders under age 16.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	T.C.A. § 55-8-307, 55-52-105.
Texas	Class 3 only - must be 15.	None.	None.	No	Tex. Trans. Code § 551.107(c).
Utah	Class 3 - must be 16. All e-bikes - riders under age 14 must be under supervision of an adult.	None.	Class 3 only - riders under age 21.	No	Utah Code Ann. §§ 41.6a-1115.5; 41.6a-1505.
Virginia	Class 3 only - must be 14 to ride unsupervised, under 14 may ride with supervision.	None.	Class 3 only - all riders.	No	Va. Code §§ 46.2-904.1(G); 46.2-908.1.

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Washington	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	None.	No	RCW 46.20.500(3).
West Virginia	Class 3 only - must be 16.	All riders under age 15.	None.	No	W.V. Code §§ 17C-11-8; 17C-11A-4.
Wisconsin	Class 3 only - must be 16.	None.	None.	No	Misc. Stat. § 346.806(4).
Wyoming	None.	None.	None.	No	N/A

Examples of Common Electric Bicycles



Class 1 Electric Bicycle

Common power range: 250-500 watts
or .333 to .667 horsepower
(Pictured bike: 250 watts)
Maximum speed: 20 MPH



Class 2 Electric Bicycle

Common power range: 250-750 watts
or .333 to 1 horsepower
(Pictured bike 500 watts)
Maximum speed: 20 MPH



Class 3 Electric Bicycle

Common power range: 250-650 watts
or .333 to .8 horsepower
(Pictured bike 250 watts)
Maximum speed: 28 MPH

Examples of Common Vehicles That Are Not Electric Bicycles



Electric Scooter

Common power range: 250-500 watts
or .333 to .667 horsepower
Maximum speed: 15-20 MPH
Distinctions to an electric bicycle:

- No pedals for human propulsion
- No seat, must be stood upon
- Smaller wheels



Scooter or Moped

Common power range: 3 (50cc) to 20 horsepower (250cc)
Maximum speed: 25-60 MPH
Distinctions to an electric bicycle:

- No pedals for human propulsion
- More powerful motors
- Faster maximum speed
- Often combustion powered



Off-Road Motorcycle/Dirt Bike

Common power range: 6 (125cc) to 60 horsepower (450cc)
Maximum speed: 45+ MPH
Distinctions to an electric bicycle:

- No pedals for human propulsion
- Much more powerful motors
- Much faster maximum speeds
- Often combustion powered

NORTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW

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NORTH DAKOTA'S EXISTING ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » Electric bicycles are defined as “motorized bicycles.” As “motorized bicycles,” electric bicycles are not subject to all of the same rules of the road that apply to bicycles.
- » As “motorized bicycles,” electric bicycles are subject to some motor vehicle laws, including requirements for licensing, registration, and insurance.
- » The minimum user age for an electric bicycle is 14 years of age.

- » Electric bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks.
- » Consult your local authority or agency for information regarding whether electric bicycles are allowed on bicycle paths.

* The following North Dakota laws are referenced: N.D. Cent. Code § 39-01-01 (48); 39-06-14.1.

NEEDED CHANGES TO NORTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW

There is an opportunity to update North Dakota's electric bicycle law, consistent with state laws recently passed in 28 states, including neighboring South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

This bill would regulate low speed electric bicycles like bicycles. The same rules of the road would apply to both electric bicycles 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 North Dakota Century Code would define an electric bicycle as a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric motor of seven hundred fifty or fewer watts. An electric bicycle would meet one of the following three classes:

- » CLASS 1: A class 1 electric bicycle if the motor provides assistance only when the individual is pedaling and the motor ceases to provide assistance when a speed of twenty miles [32 kilometers] per hour is achieved.
- » CLASS 2: A class 2 electric bicycle if the motor is capable of propelling the bicycle without the individual pedaling and the motor ceases to provide assistance when a speed of twenty miles [32 kilometers] per hour is achieved.
- » CLASS 3: A class 3 electric bicycle if the motor provides assistance only when the individual is pedaling and the motor ceases to provide assistance when a speed of twenty-eight miles [45 kilometers] per hour is achieved.

In the interest of safety, local governments would be allowed to restrict, regulate or prohibit the use of electric bicycles on bicycle paths or multi-use paths. This is a local jurisdictional decision.

These regulatory updates would also mean that:

- » Electric bicycles and electric bicycle riders would not be subject to the provisions of the code relating to financial responsibility, vehicle insurance, driver's licenses, vehicle registration, or certificates of title.
- » All electric bicycle manufacturers must apply a standard label to each electric bicycle specifying its class, type and wattage.
- » Any tampering or modification of the motor would require replacement of the standard label.
- » The definitions of off-highway vehicle motorcycle, motorized bicycle, motor-powered recreational vehicle, motor-driven cycle and motor vehicle would exclude that of an electric bicycle.

With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state's law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.



Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes](https://www.PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes)

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
- » Electric bicycle statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
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