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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2374**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Zahn, Reed, Berry, Hall, Duerr, Doglio, and Thai)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to electric-assisted bicycle and electric  
2 motorcycle regulation; amending RCW 46.04.169 and 46.04.330; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; creating a new section; and  
4 declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.04.169 and 2018 c 60 s 1 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1) "Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three  
9 wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an  
10 electric motor. The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must  
11 have a power output of no more than (~~seven hundred fifty~~) 750  
12 watts. The electric-assisted bicycle must meet the requirements of  
13 one of the following three classifications:

14 (~~(1)~~) (a) "Class 1 electric-assisted bicycle" means an  
15 electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only  
16 when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the  
17 bicycle reaches the speed of (~~twenty~~) 20 miles per hour;

18 (~~(2)~~) (b) "Class 2 electric-assisted bicycle" means an  
19 electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor may be used exclusively  
20 to propel the bicycle and is not capable of providing assistance when  
21 the bicycle reaches the speed of (~~twenty~~) 20 miles per hour; or

1       (~~(3)~~) (c) "Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle" means an  
2 electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only  
3 when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the  
4 bicycle reaches the speed of (~~(twenty-eight)~~) 28 miles per hour and  
5 is equipped with a speedometer.

6       (2) "Electric-assisted bicycle" does not include:

7       (a) Any vehicle capable of exceeding 20 miles per hour on solely  
8 its electric motor; or

9       (b) Any vehicle that is designed, manufactured, or intended by  
10 the manufacturer or seller to be easily configured in order not to  
11 meet the requirements of an electric-assisted bicycle, whether by a  
12 mechanical switch or button, by changing a setting in software  
13 controlling the drive system, by use of an online application, or  
14 through other means intended by the manufacturer or seller.

15       NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 46.04  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17       "Electric motorcycle" means a motorcycle, as defined in RCW  
18 46.04.330, that uses propulsion units powered solely by electricity  
19 and meets one or more of the following criteria:

20       (1) Is not equipped with fully operable pedals capable of  
21 propelling it. Foot pegs are not considered pedals;

22       (2) Has a motor with a power output that exceeds 750 watts;

23       (3) Has a motor that provides exclusive electric assist to propel  
24 the vehicle over a speed of 20 miles per hour;

25       (4) Has a motor that continues to provide assistance when the  
26 vehicle reaches a speed greater than 28 miles per hour.

27       **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.04.330 and 2013 c 174 s 1 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29       (1) "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle designed to travel on not  
30 more than three wheels, not including any stabilizing conversion  
31 kits, on which the driver:

32       (~~(1)~~) (a) Rides on a seat or saddle and the motor vehicle is  
33 designed to be steered with a handlebar; or

34       (~~(2)~~) (b) Rides on a seat in a partially or completely enclosed  
35 seating area that is equipped with safety belts and the motor vehicle  
36 is designed to be steered with a steering wheel.

37       (2) "Motorcycle" includes an "electric motorcycle."

1       (3) "Motorcycle" excludes a farm tractor, a power wheelchair, an  
2 electric personal assistive mobility device, a motorized foot  
3 scooter, an electric-assisted bicycle, and a moped.

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.** (1) The legislature recognizes the recent  
5 proliferation of electric motorcycle use statewide, especially among  
6 teenagers and young adults. The legislature also recognizes that  
7 there is a growing need to focus on the differences between electric-  
8 assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles to provide a clear means  
9 of distinguishing between the regulations that apply to each type of  
10 vehicle.

11       (2)(a) The department of licensing must convene a work group to  
12 study and recommend:

13       (i) Whether additional training or other investments could assist  
14 with uniform and consistent enforcement of rules of the road and  
15 equipment requirements applicable to all types of electric  
16 motorcycles;

17       (ii) Whether establishing civil infractions and penalties related  
18 to the enforcement of rules of the road and equipment requirements  
19 when a minor is operating an electric motorcycle could assist with  
20 enforcement of rules of the road and equipment requirements; and

21       (iii) Whether consumer protections related to a consumer's  
22 ability to distinguish between electric bicycles and electric  
23 motorcycles would facilitate adherence to the laws applicable to each  
24 category of vehicle.

25       (b) The department may contract with a third-party consultant for  
26 work group support and to make recommendations on potential changes  
27 to state law.

28       (c) The work group must consist of, but is not limited to, the  
29 following members:

30       (i) The secretary of the department of transportation or the  
31 secretary's designee;

32       (ii) The executive director of the Washington traffic safety  
33 commission or the executive director's designee;

34       (iii) The chief of the Washington state patrol or the chief's  
35 designee;

36       (iv) A representative from the Cooper Jones active transportation  
37 safety council;

38       (v) A representative of the association of Washington cities;

1 (vi) A representative of the Washington state association of  
2 counties;

3 (vii) A representative of a nonprofit organization specializing  
4 in active transportation or electric bicycle safety;

5 (viii) A representative of a trails organization that represents  
6 nonmotorized users who have encountered motor-powered vehicles on  
7 nonmotorized trails;

8 (ix) A representative of a nonprofit motorcycle organization or a  
9 motorcycle rider; and

10 (x) Any other representative deemed necessary by the department  
11 of licensing.

12 (d) The work group must address the following topics:

13 (i) Enforcement of motorcycle rules of the road and equipment  
14 requirements as applied to all types of electric motorcycles,  
15 including whether any category of electric motorcycles may not be  
16 subject to consistent enforcement across the state, and if not, how  
17 enforcement could be made more consistent across all types of  
18 electric motorcycles;

19 (ii) (A) Exploration of the establishment of civil infractions  
20 that may be imposed by local jurisdictions on juveniles between the  
21 ages of 12 and 16 that may be adjudicated in courts of limited  
22 jurisdiction to avoid impacts on juvenile court operations;

23 (B) Exploration of the establishment of civil penalties for  
24 adults who provide electric motorcycles to juveniles less than 16  
25 years of age;

26 (iii) Vehicle modifications that impact vehicle classification  
27 and may require vehicle reclassification, potential vehicle marketing  
28 practice and disclosure requirements related to vehicle  
29 classification that could assist consumers in distinguishing between  
30 electric-assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles, and any  
31 penalties that would be appropriate for violations of these  
32 requirements; and

33 (iv) Any additional areas of focus the work group finds relevant  
34 to the objective of the assessment.

35 (e) The work group must submit a final report, including any  
36 recommendations or draft legislation, to the office of the governor  
37 and transportation committees of the legislature by December 15,  
38 2026.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Section 4 of this act is necessary for the  
2 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or  
3 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
4 and takes effect immediately.

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