
HOUSE BILL 2374

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Zahn, Reed, Berry, Hall, Duerr, Doglio, and Thai

Prefiled 01/09/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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: (i) Whether additional training or other
13 investments could assist with uniform and consistent enforcement of
14 rules of the road and equipment requirements applicable to all types
15 of electric motorcycles; and (ii) whether consumer protections
16 related to a consumer's ability to distinguish between electric
17 bicycles and electric motorcycles would facilitate adherence to the
18 laws applicable to each category of vehicle. The department may
19 contract with a third-party consultant for work group support and to
20 make recommendations on potential changes to state law.

21 (b) The work group must consist of, but is not limited to, the
22 following members:

23 (i) The secretary of the department of transportation or the
24 secretary's designee;

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

27 (iii) The chief of the Washington state patrol or the chief's
28 designee;

29 (iv) A representative from the Cooper Jones active transportation
30 safety council;

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

32 (vi) A representative of the Washington state association of
33 counties;

34 (vii) A representative of a nonprofit organization specializing
35 in active transportation or electric bicycle safety; and

36 (viii) Any other representative deemed necessary by the
37 department of licensing.

38 (c) The work group must address the following topics:

1 (i) Enforcement of motorcycle rules of the road and equipment
2 requirements as applied to all types of electric motorcycles,
3 including whether any category of electric motorcycles may not be
4 subject to consistent enforcement across the state, and if not, how
5 enforcement could be made more consistent across all types of
6 electric motorcycles;

7 (ii) Vehicle modifications that impact vehicle classification and
8 may require vehicle reclassification, potential vehicle marketing
9 practice and disclosure requirements related to vehicle
10 classification that could assist consumers in distinguishing between
11 electric-assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles, and any
12 penalties that would be appropriate for violations of these
13 requirements; and

14 (iii) Any additional areas of focus the work group finds relevant
15 to the objective of the assessment.

16 (d) The work group must submit a final report, including any
17 recommendations or draft legislation, to the office of the governor
18 and transportation committees of the legislature by December 15,
19 2026.

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

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