

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE  
Mar 25, 2025  
S.B. 576  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

S

D

SENATE BILL DRS45268-MW-66

Short Title: E-Bike Definition and Local Regulation.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lee and Lazzara (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF ELECTRIC ASSISTED BICYCLE AND TO  
3 AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01(7a) reads as rewritten:

6 "(7a) Electric Assisted Bicycle. – A bicycle with two or three wheels that is  
7 equipped with a seat or saddle for use by the rider, fully operable pedals for  
8 human propulsion, and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, whose  
9 maximum speed on a level surface when powered solely by such a motor is  
10 no greater than 20 miles per hour, watts that meets the requirements of one of  
11 the following three classes:

- 12 a. Class 1 electric assisted bicycle. – A bicycle equipped with a motor  
13 that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to  
14 assist once the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.  
15 b. Class 2 electric assisted bicycle. – A bicycle equipped with a motor  
16 that may propel the bicycle without pedaling but ceases to assist once  
17 the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.  
18 c. Class 3 electric assisted bicycle. – A bicycle equipped with a motor  
19 that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to  
20 assist once the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour."

21 **SECTION 2.** Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
22 a new section to read:

23 "**§ 20-171.3. Electric bicycles.**

24 (a) Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 160A-300.2 and G.S. 153A-245.1, the operation  
25 of an electric assisted bicycle as defined in G.S. 20-4.01 shall be permitted on all roadways,  
26 bicycle lanes, and shared-use paths.

27 (b) A person operating or riding as a passenger on a Class 3 electric assisted bicycle shall  
28 wear a helmet that meets federal safety standards."

29 **SECTION 3.(a)** Article 15 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by  
30 adding a new section to read:

31 "**§ 160A-300.2. Electric bicycles.**

32 (a) A city may regulate the use of electric assisted bicycles on any street, road, or highway  
33 within municipal limits. This authority shall include the following:

- 34 (1) Restricting the use of a class or classes of electric assisted bicycles on multiuse  
35 paths, sidewalks, or trails.  
36 (2) Establishing speed limits on greenways or shared-use paths.



1       (b)    A city may require the use of a helmet by a person operating or riding as a passenger  
2 on a Class 1 or Class 2 electric assisted bicycle.

3       (c)    A city may impose penalties for violations of this section."

4           **SECTION 3.(b)** Article 12 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended by  
5 adding a new section to read:

6 **"§ 153A-245.1. Regulation of electric bicycles.**

7       A county may regulate the use of an electric assisted bicycle in accordance with  
8 G.S. 160A-300.2. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to restrict or repeal the authority of a  
9 city to regulate the use of an electric assisted bicycle."

10       **SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation shall develop educational materials  
11 on the proper use and safety considerations of electric assisted bicycles.

12       **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to all electric  
13 assisted bicycle riders and passengers on or after that date.