

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5452

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As of February 17, 2021

**Title:** An act relating to electric-assisted bicycles.

**Brief Description:** Concerning electric-assisted bicycles.

**Sponsors:** Senators Cleveland, Lias and Wilson, J..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/18/21.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires local and state agencies with jurisdiction of a non-motorized natural surface trail that is open to use by bicycles, to allow class 1 electric-assisted bicycles to use the trail.
- Requires local and state agencies with jurisdiction of a road open to non motorized use that allows bicycles, to allow class 1 and class 3 electric-assisted bicycles.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Kimberly Johnson (786-7472)

**Background:** Electric-assisted bicycle, or e-bike, means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor. The motor must have a power output of no more than 750 watts and the electric-assisted bicycle must meet the requirements of one of the three following classifications:

- class 1—in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 mph;
- class 2—in which the motor may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 mph; or

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- class 3—in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 28 mph and is equipped with a speedometer.

Persons under the age of 16 may not operate a class 3 e-bike. There is no age limit for the operation of class 1 and 2 e-bikes.

There are various restrictions on where the different classes of e-bikes may be operated, for example, all classes of e-bikes may be operated on a fully controlled limited access highway and class 1 and 2 e-bikes may be used on a sidewalk. Class 3 e-bikes may not be used on a sidewalk unless there is no alternative to travel over a sidewalk as part of a bicycle or pedestrian path.

Generally, a person may not operate an e-bike on a trail that is designated as non-motorized and that has a natural surface, unless otherwise authorized by the state agency or local authority having jurisdiction over the trail.

State Lands. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Commission is managing the use of e-bikes as a bicycle. The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources are managing e-bikes as motorized vehicles.

**Summary of Bill:** Local and state agencies with jurisdiction over a non-motorized, natural surface trail that is open to bicycles must allow the operation of a class 1 electric-assisted bicycles. However, a local or state agency having jurisdiction over the trail may close the trail to bicycles and electric-assisted bicycles, via an open public process, to protect wildlife or natural resources or to preserve public safety.

Local and state agencies with jurisdiction over a road that is limited to non-motorized access that allow bicycles, must allow class 1 and class 3 electric-assisted bicycles.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 17, 2021.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.