



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 4/12/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1151

Sponsors

Representatives Hansen & Willett
Senators Kerr & Hill

Short Title

Electrical Assisted Bicycles Regulation Operation

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor and becomes effective on August 9, 2017 assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Background

Under current Colorado law, an electrical assisted bicycle is a vehicle having two tandem wheels or two parallel wheels and one forward wheel, fully operable pedals, an electric motor not exceeding 750 watts of power, and a top motor-powered speed of 20 miles per hour. Persons using electrical assisted bicycles are subject to laws regarding the operation of bicycles and other human-powered vehicles. In addition to state laws, electrical assisted bicycles can be subject to local jurisdiction regulations. Also, unless specifically allowed by a local authority, electrical assisted bicyclists cannot use the motor on a bike or pedestrian path.

Currently, 25 states regulate electrical assisted bicycles as bicycles, while 25 state regulate them as mopeds, motor-driven cycles, or motorized bicycles. 26 states require persons using electrical assisted bicycles to be licensed, while 13 states require registration of an electrical assisted bicycle. The electric motor capability of regulated electrical assisted bicycles ranges from 750 to 2238 watts of power.

House Action

House Transportation & Energy Committee (February 15, 2017). At the hearing, representatives of Bicycle Colorado, People for Bikes, Haibike USA, and Small Planet Bikes

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testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (February 22, 2017). The House passed the bill on second reading with no additional amendments.

House third reading (February 23, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no additional amendments.

House consideration of amendments (March 27, 2017). The House adopted Senate amendments and repassed the bill.

Senate Action

Senate Transportation (March 7, 2017). At the hearing, representatives of the Denver Electric Vehicle Council, Haibike USA, People for Bikes, the Bicycle Products Suppliers Association, SRAM Corporation, Bicycle Colorado, Small Planet E-Bikes, Good Turn Cycles, and a person representing herself testified in support of the bill. The bill was laid over to a future date for action only.

Senate Transportation (March 14, 2017). The committee adopted amendment L.004, and referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.004 amends the definition of an electric assisted bicycle by conforming the number of wheels that comprise an electric assisted bicycle with the federal definition.

Senate second reading (March 21, 2017). The committee adopted the Senate Transportation Committee report and passed the bill on second reading with no additional amendments.

Senate third reading (March 22, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no additional amendments.