

CHAPTER 98

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION

HOUSE BILL 17-1151

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Hansen and Willett, Becker K., Buckner, Ginal, Hooton, Kennedy, Lontine, Mitsch Bush, Valdez, Winter, Young, Singer;
also SENATOR(S) Kerr and Hill, Gardner, Kagan.

AN ACT**CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-1-102, **amend** (28.5) and (58) as follows:

42-1-102. Definitions. As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

(28.5) "Electrical assisted bicycle" means a vehicle having two ~~tandem wheels~~ or two ~~parallel~~ THREE wheels, ~~and one forward wheel~~, fully operable pedals, AND an electric motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power. ~~and a top motor-powered speed of twenty miles per hour.~~ ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES ARE FURTHER REQUIRED TO CONFORM TO ONE OF THREE CLASSES AS FOLLOWS:

(a) "CLASS 1 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE ONLY WHEN THE RIDER IS PEDALING AND THAT CEASES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN THE BICYCLE REACHES A SPEED OF TWENTY MILES PER HOUR.

(b) "CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE RIDER IS PEDALING BUT CEASES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN THE BICYCLE REACHES A SPEED OF TWENTY MILES PER HOUR.

(c) "CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE ONLY WHEN THE

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

RIDER IS PEDALING AND THAT CEASES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN THE BICYCLE REACHES A SPEED OF TWENTY-EIGHT MILES PER HOUR.

(58) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways or a low-speed electric vehicle; except that the term does not include ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES, low-power scooters, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power. For the purposes of the offenses described in sections 42-2-128, 42-4-1301, 42-4-1301.1, and 42-4-1401 for farm tractors and off-highway vehicles, as defined in section 33-14.5-101 (3), ~~C.R.S.~~, operated on streets and highways, "motor vehicle" includes a farm tractor or an off-highway vehicle that is not otherwise classified as a motor vehicle. For the purposes of sections 42-2-127, 42-2-127.7, 42-2-128, 42-2-138, 42-2-206, 42-4-1301, and 42-4-1301.1, "motor vehicle" includes a low-power scooter.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-103, **amend** (1)(b) introductory portion and (1)(b)(I) as follows:

42-3-103. Registration required - exemptions. (1) (b) This subsection (1) ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to the following:

(I) A bicycle, ~~electric~~ ELECTRICAL assisted bicycle, or other human-powered vehicle;

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-111, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1)(dd) as follows:

42-4-111. Powers of local authorities. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 4 does not prevent local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, from:

(dd) Authorizing OR PROHIBITING the use of ~~the electrical motor on~~ an electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-4-1412;

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-221, **amend** (9); and **add** (10) and (11) as follows:

42-4-221. Bicycle and personal mobility device equipment. (9) (a) ~~Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction~~ ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018, EVERY MANUFACTURER OR DISTRIBUTOR OF NEW ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES INTENDED FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION IN THIS STATE SHALL PERMANENTLY AFFIX TO EACH ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE, IN A PROMINENT LOCATION, A LABEL THAT CONTAINS THE CLASSIFICATION NUMBER, TOP ASSISTED SPEED, AND MOTOR WATTAGE OF THE ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE. THE LABEL MUST BE PRINTED IN THE ARIAL FONT IN AT LEAST NINE-POINT TYPE.

(b) A PERSON SHALL NOT KNOWINGLY MODIFY AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE SO AS TO CHANGE THE SPEED CAPABILITY OR MOTOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE

ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE WITHOUT ALSO APPROPRIATELY REPLACING, OR CAUSING TO BE REPLACED, THE LABEL INDICATING THE CLASSIFICATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

(10)(a) AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE MUST COMPLY WITH THE EQUIPMENT AND MANUFACTURING REQUIREMENTS FOR BICYCLES ADOPTED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION AND CODIFIED AT 16 CFR 1512 OR ITS SUCCESSOR REGULATION.

(b) A CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE MUST OPERATE IN A MANNER SO THAT THE ELECTRIC MOTOR IS DISENGAGED OR CEASES TO FUNCTION WHEN THE BRAKES ARE APPLIED. CLASS 1 AND CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A MECHANISM OR CIRCUIT THAT CANNOT BE BYPASSED AND THAT CAUSES THE ELECTRIC MOTOR TO DISENGAGE OR CEASE TO FUNCTION WHEN THE RIDER STOPS PEDALING.

(c) A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A SPEEDOMETER THAT DISPLAYS, IN MILES PER HOUR, THE SPEED THE ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE IS TRAVELING.

(11) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION COMMITS A CLASS B TRAFFIC INFRACTION.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1412, **amend** (14); and **add** (15) as follows:

42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles and other human-powered vehicles.

(14) (a) (I) ~~Except as authorized by section 42-4-111, the rider of an electrical assisted bicycle shall not use the electrical motor on a bike or pedestrian path.~~ A PERSON MAY RIDE A CLASS 1 OR CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH WHERE BICYCLES ARE AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL.

(II) A LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF A CLASS 1 OR CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

(b) A PERSON SHALL NOT RIDE A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH UNLESS:

(I) THE PATH IS WITHIN A STREET OR HIGHWAY; OR

(II) THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PERMITS THE OPERATION OF A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A PATH UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

(15) (a) A PERSON UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE SHALL NOT RIDE A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE UPON ANY STREET, HIGHWAY, OR BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH; EXCEPT THAT A PERSON UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE MAY RIDE AS A PASSENGER ON A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE THAT IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE PASSENGERS.

(b) A PERSON SHALL NOT OPERATE OR RIDE AS A PASSENGER ON A CLASS 3

ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE UNLESS:

(I) EACH PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE IS WEARING A PROTECTIVE HELMET OF A TYPE AND DESIGN MANUFACTURED FOR USE BY OPERATORS OF BICYCLES;

(II) THE PROTECTIVE HELMET CONFORMS TO THE DESIGN AND SPECIFICATIONS SET FORTH BY THE UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION OR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS; AND

(III) THE PROTECTIVE HELMET IS SECURED PROPERLY ON THE PERSON'S HEAD WITH A CHIN STRAP WHILE THE CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE IS IN MOTION.

(c) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (15)(b) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE NEGLIGENCE OR NEGLIGENCE PER SE IN THE CONTEXT OF ANY CIVIL PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM OR LAWSUIT SEEKING DAMAGES.

SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 4, 2017