

## S.F. No. 1161 – Electric-Assist Bike Modifications

**Author:** Senator D. Scott Dibble

**Prepared by:** Alexis C. Stangl, Senate Counsel (651/296-4397)

**Date:** February 24, 2021

---

**S.F. 1161** amends the laws relating to electric-assisted motorcycles, including amending definitions, establishing classes of electric-assisted bicycles, and establishing riding rules and equipment standards.

Several sections of the bill modify definitions relating to electric-assisted bicycles. **Sections 1, 2, and 3** exclude electric-assisted bicycles from the definition of “off-highway motorcycle,” “off-road vehicle,” and “all-terrain vehicle” in **chapter 84**, which relates to the Department of Natural Resources. **Section 4** excludes electric-assisted bicycle from the definition of “motor vehicle” in **chapter 168**, which relates to vehicle registration. Existing language is also reorganized for clarity. **Section 9** excludes electric-assisted bicycles from the definition of “motor vehicle” in **chapter 169**, which relates to traffic regulation.

The bill also amends the definition of electric-assisted bicycle and establishes three classes of bicycles. **Sections 5, 6, and 7** establish class 1, class 2, and class 3 electric-assisted bicycles. The classification is based on whether the electric motor provides assistance when the rider is pedaling and at what speed the motor stops providing assistance. **Section 8** amends the overarching definition of “electric-assisted bicycle” to reference the new classes of bicycles instead of the current classification system and to delete a reference to federal regulations for motor vehicles.

Finally, the bill also amends operating requirements for electric-assisted bicycle riders. **Section 10** strikes a provision allowing electric-assisted bicycle use on roads and trails. **Section 11** establishes the riding rules for electric-assisted bicycles. A person may operate an electric-assisted bicycle in the same manner as other bicycles, including on roads and trails. State and local authorities may restrict the use of electric-assisted bicycles on paths and trails under certain circumstances. **Section 12** establishes equipment requirements for electric assisted bicycles, including the following: 1) the manufacturer must affix an information label on each bicycle; 2) if a person modifies the speed capabilities of the bicycle, the label must be updated; 3) the motor must disengage when the rider stops pedaling or when the brake is applied; and 4) class 3 electric-assisted bicycles must be equipped with a speedometer.