



Electric Bicycle Legislation and Policies

BPAG

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State Legislation: Electric Bicycles

- § 11-117.1 of the Transportation Article, Annotated Code of MD
- **Electric bicycles (e-bikes) are defined as:**
 - Designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor
 - Are equipped with fully operable pedals
 - Has two or three wheels
 - Has a motor rating of [500] 750 watts or less
- **Three classes of e-bikes:**
 - Class 1 is equipped with pedal assist up to 20 mph
 - Class 2 is equipped with a motor that provides assistance whether or not the rider is pedaling up to 20 mph
 - Class 3 is equipped with pedal assist up to 28 mph



State Legislation: Electric Bicycles

- E-bikes can be operated where bicycles are allowed to travel
- Local authority or state agency may prohibit Class 1 or Class 2 e-bikes on bicycle paths
- Class 3 e-bikes may not be operated on a bicycle path unless:
 - The bicycle path is within or adjacent to a highway ROW
 - It is allowed by a local authority or state agency with jurisdiction over the bicycle path
- A local authority or state agency with jurisdiction over a trail can regulate the use of e-bikes of any class on any trail designated as non-motorized if the trail has a natural surface



State Legislation: Electric Low Speed Scooters

- § 11-117.2 of the Transportation Article, Annotated Code of MD
- **An electric low speed scooter (e-scooter):**
 - Is designed to transport only the operator
 - Weighs less than 100 lbs.
 - Has single wheels in tandem or a combination of one or two wheels at the front and rear
 - Equipped with handlebars and a platform designed to be stood on while riding
 - Is solely powered by an electric motor and human power
 - Can travel at a speed of up to 20 mph
- **Local authorities can:**
 - Regulate the operation of e-scooters
 - Require them to be registered
 - Impose a registration fee



MD State Park Policies: Electric Bicycles

- **E-bikes are permitted where motorized vehicles are allowed**
 - Such as interior public-use roads and parking lots
- **E-bikes are prohibited on:**
 - State Park trails and other areas not designated for motorized vehicles regardless of trail width or surface
- **However, Class 1 e-bikes are permitted on the:**
 - Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail
 - Western Maryland Rail Trail
- **Class 1 e-bikes defined by § 11-117.1 of the Transportation Article, Annotated Code of MD**
 - “A Class 1 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour”



<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Publiclands/Pages/Statewide-Maryland-Park-Policies.aspx>

For More Information

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