

# MAINE'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



## MAINE'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » Electric bicycles are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both electric bicycles and human-powered bicycles.
- » Electric bicycles are not subject to the registration, licensing, or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » Maine designates three classes of electric bicycles:
  - Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 28 mph.
- » A Class 3 electric bicycle may not be operated on a bike path unless it is within a highway or roadway, or Class 3 operation is allowed by the local authority.
- » Helmets are required for riders or passengers under 16 years of age. A person under 16 years of age may not operate a Class 2 or Class 3 electric bicycle unless it is designed to accommodate passengers.
- » Municipalities, local authority or governing body of a public agency that has jurisdiction can restrict where electric bicycles are allowed. When in doubt, check for local rules and regulations.

\*The following Maine laws are referenced: Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 29-A §101-1(22-B), 29-A §2063 (14).

## eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, country and local trails, electric mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.
- » Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.
- » eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.
- » Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.
- » When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

## CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at [peopleforbikes.org/emtb](http://peopleforbikes.org/emtb)
- » eMTB "Adventures" at [peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes](http://peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes)

## MAINE'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The Maine Department of Conservation and Recreation does not have a law or policy specifically addressing electric bicycles. In general, though, electric bicycles are defined as motorized vehicles. If an eMTB rider wants to ride on trails, the vehicle must be registered as an ATV. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: There is little federal land managed for recreation in Maine. However, the majority of public lands managed for recreation in Maine are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Office for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN MAINE

- » **Androscoggin State Park Tour**  
Turner | 21 miles
- » **Mt. Agamenticus**  
Ogunquit | 10 miles

## With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state's law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.



## Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes](http://PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes)

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
- » Electric bicycle statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
- » eMTB management resources