

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1975

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 17, 2023

Introduced by Sens. RAMOS, JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to cargo bicycles with electric assist

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 102-c of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by  
2 section 1 of part XX of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 § 102-c. Bicycle with electric assist. A bicycle which is no more than  
5 thirty-six inches wide and has an electric motor of less than seven  
6 hundred fifty watts, equipped with operable pedals, meeting the equip-  
7 ment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the Consumer  
8 Product Safety Commission under 16 C.F.R. Part 1512.1 et seq., except  
9 that the governing body of any city, town or village may, by local law,  
10 ordinance, order, rule, or regulation allow a bicycle with electric  
11 assist which is equipped with operable pedals and no more than forty-  
12 eight inches wide or has an electric motor of equal to or more than  
13 seven hundred fifty watts that is manufactured or modified for the  
14 purpose of transporting property in commerce and operated for that  
15 purpose and meets the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicy-  
16 cles adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 C.F.R.  
17 Part 1512.1 et seq., and meeting the requirements of one of the follow-  
18 ing [~~three~~] four classes:

19 (a) "Class one bicycle with electric assist." A bicycle with electric  
20 assist having an electric motor that provides assistance only when the  
21 person operating such bicycle is pedaling, and that ceases to provide  
22 assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

23 (b) "Class two bicycle with electric assist." A bicycle with electric  
24 assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel  
25 such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such  
26 bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

27 (c) "Class three bicycle with electric assist." Solely within a city  
28 having a population of one million or more, a bicycle with electric

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel  
2 such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such  
3 bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-five miles per hour.

4 (d) "Cargo bicycle with electric assist." A bicycle designed to carry  
5 and deliver more than ten cubic feet of property, or a bicycle towing a  
6 trailer designed to carry property, with electric assist having an elec-  
7 tric motor that provides assistance only when the person operating such  
8 bicycle is pedaling or that may be used exclusively to propel such bicy-  
9 cle, that is manufactured or modified for the purpose of transporting  
10 property in commerce and operated for such purpose. Every person riding  
11 a cargo bicycle with electric assist upon a roadway shall be granted all  
12 of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to  
13 the driver of a vehicle and the rider of a bicycle by this title, except  
14 as to special regulations in this article and except as to those  
15 provisions of this title which by their nature can have no application.

16 § 2. Subdivisions 4 and 9 of section 1242 of the vehicle and traffic  
17 law, as added by section 8 of part XX of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020,  
18 are amended and a new subdivision 11-a is added to read as follows:

19 4. (a) No person shall operate a bicycle with electric assist on any  
20 public lands or property, other than a highway exclusive of any greenway  
21 running adjacent to or connected with a highway, except that a bicycle  
22 with electric assist may be operated on any such lands that have been  
23 designated and posted for travel by bicycles with electric assist in  
24 accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subdivision. For  
25 the purposes of this subdivision, the term "greenway" shall have the  
26 same meaning as such term is defined by subdivision seven of section  
27 44-0103 of the environmental conservation law and subdivision one of  
28 section 39.03 of the parks, recreation and historic preservation law.

29 (b) A state agency, by regulation or order, and a city, town or  
30 village, by local law or ordinance, may designate any appropriate public  
31 lands and properties under its jurisdiction, other than highways exclu-  
32 sive of any greenway running adjacent to or connected with a highway, as  
33 a place open for travel by bicycles with electric assist upon written  
34 request for such designation by any person, and may impose restrictions  
35 and conditions for the regulation and safe operation of bicycles with  
36 electric assist on such public lands or property, such as travel on  
37 designated trails and hours of operation.

38 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this  
39 subdivision, no person shall operate a cargo bicycle with electric  
40 assist on any public lands or property, other than a highway exclusive  
41 of any greenway or park roadway running adjacent to or connected with a  
42 highway.

43 9. No person shall operate a class one or class two bicycle with elec-  
44 tric assist in excess of twenty miles per hour. No person shall operate  
45 a class three bicycle with electric assist in excess of twenty-five  
46 miles per hour. No person shall operate a cargo bicycle with electric  
47 assist in excess of twelve miles per hour unless otherwise authorized by  
48 local law, ordinance, order, rule, or regulation or pursuant to an  
49 agreement made on behalf of a city, town, or village.

50 11-a. No person shall operate a cargo bicycle with electric assist  
51 unless it is accompanied by proof of financial security unless otherwise  
52 authorized by local law, ordinance, order, rule, or regulation or pursu-  
53 ant to an agreement made on behalf of the city, town, or village.

54 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.