STATE OF NEW YORK

9402

IN SENATE

March 10, 2026

Introduced by Sen. PALUMBO -- 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 establishing bicycle with electric assist safety courses, requiring purchasers of bicycles with electric assist to provide a bicycle with electric assist safety certificate and requiring operators of bicycles with electric assist to carry identification when operating such bicycles

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

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 1244 to read as follows:

§ 1244. Bicycle with electric assist safety course. 1. The commissioner shall initiate and put into effect a comprehensive educational program designed to advance bicycle with electric assist safety, which provides for the training of all purchasers of bicycles with electric assist in the safe operation of such bicycles.

2. "Bicycle with electric assist safety certificate" shall mean a certificate issued by the commissioner evidencing that the holder thereof has successfully completed a course of instruction in bicycle with electric assist safety as provided in this section. The commissioner shall put into effect a plan for the training of all purchasers, and in the case of purchases by minors, the parent or guardian of such minor purchasers, of bicycles with electric assist and the issuance of bicycle with electric assist safety certificates. For the purposes of this section, the term "bicycle with electric assist safety" shall include instruction in the laws relating to and safe operation of bicycles with electric assist.

3. "Bicycle with electric assist safety certificate" shall also mean a certificate issued by the commissioner evidencing that the holder thereof has successfully completed a course of instruction in the laws relating to and safe operation of bicycles with electric assist. The commissioner is authorized to collect a fee not to exceed ten dollars for the issuance of such certificate.

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

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4. The commissioner is authorized and directed to establish a system for tracking and replacing bicycle with electric assist safety certificates issued by the commissioner. The commissioner is further authorized to require that any other entity approved by the commissioner to provide courses of instruction and award bicycle with electric assist safety certificates establish a system for tracking and replacing bicycle with electric assist safety certificates so as to enable the replacement of lost or stolen certificates to those who have previously been awarded such certificates.

5. For the purpose of giving such courses of instruction and awarding bicycle with electric assist safety certificates, the commissioner may designate as the commissioner's agent any person the commissioner deems qualified to act in such capacity. No charge whatsoever shall be made to any person less than eighteen years of age for the issuance of a bicycle with electric assist safety certificate. Persons less than eighteen years of age may be charged a fee for instruction in bicycle with electric assist safety, except that the office may not charge a fee when providing such instruction to persons less than eighteen years of age.

6. The commissioner is authorized, at the commissioner's discretion, to develop a method for approving internet-based bicycle with electric assist safety courses as an appropriate and effective method for the administration and completion of training in the laws relating to and safe operation of bicycles with electric assist for the purposes of awarding a bicycle with electric assist safety certificate pursuant to this section. All approved internet-based bicycle with electric assist safety courses shall employ methods to ensure attendance of the student throughout the course.

§ 2. Section 1242 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 14 and 15 to read as follows:

14. No person, firm, association or corporation engaged in the business of selling or leasing bicycles with electric assist shall sell or lease any bicycle with electric assist unless the purchaser of such bicycle provides a bicycle with electric assist safety certificate issued pursuant to section twelve hundred forty-four of this article. If the purchaser of a bicycle with electric assist is a minor, or if a bicycle with electric assist is being purchased for a minor, then both the minor and the parent or guardian of such minor shall each provide a bicycle with electric assist safety certificate certifying that both the minor and the parent or guardian of such minor have completed a bicycle with electric assist safety course as required pursuant to section twelve hundred forty-four of this article.

15. Every operator of a bicycle with electric assist shall carry identification with them when operating such bicycle with electric assist. For the purposes of this subdivision, "identification" shall mean a drivers' license, state-issued identification card, or, where the operator is a minor, a school-issued identification card.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.