



Top Texas E-Bike Laws

What You Need to Know for Safer Riding and Understanding Texas electric bicycle (e-bike) laws is important for safety and legal operation on the road. This guide is to help you understand the law, key riding regulations, and to ensure you're fully informed.

These laws are found in the Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 664.

Key Takeaways

Texas law classifies e-bikes into three categories: Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3

E-bike riders must follow traffic laws like traditional bicycles, helmet laws for those under 18, and speed cannot exceed 28mph.

Any bike without functioning pedals and exceeds 28 mph, or has a motor with more than 750 watts, makes it an "electric" motorcycle, requiring Texas Class M license, registration, inspection, and liability insurance.



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Conroe, Texas 77301

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Non-Emergency.(936) 538-5900

Emergency 911



Understanding E-Bike Classes in Texas

A Guide to Safety and Compliance



Understanding E-Bike Classes in Texas

Class 1 E-Bikes

These electric bicycles provide pedal assist up to 20 miles per hour and are equipped with fully operable pedals. Class 1 e-bikes have no age restrictions in Texas.

Class 2 E-Bikes

Class 2 e-bikes stand out for their throttle feature, allowing riders to reach speeds of up to 20 miles per hour without the need to pedal. They also have fully operable pedals, allowing riders to use pedal assist if desired. Similar to Class 1, Class 2 e-bikes have no age restrictions in Texas.

Class 3 E-Bikes

Class 3 e-bikes offer a more robust riding experience with their ability to provide pedal-assist up to 28 miles per hour. However, Texas regulations require riders to be at least 16 years old due to the higher speeds of Class 3 e-bikes.

Electric Motorcycle

Any bike, without functioning pedals, that can exceed 28mph or has a motor greater than 750 watts is **not** classified as an e-bike, and likely is considered an “electric” motorcycle in Texas, requiring vehicle registration, liability insurance, and a Texas motorcycle driver’s license or endorsement.

Key Regulations for Riding E-Bikes in Texas

Riding e-bikes in Texas comes with a set of regulations that ensure the safety of both the rider and the public. According to the Texas transportation code, e-bikes are classified as bicycles, which means they must adhere to the same traffic laws as traditional bicycles.

Modifying an e-bike to exceed its legal speed limits can lead to it being reclassified as a motor vehicle, which would require licensing, registration, and insurance. Understanding and complying with the specific regulations for each e-bike class helps avoid legal issues.

Helmet Laws

While they are highly recommended for safety, Texas law does not require a helmet be worn on Class 1 or Class 2 e-bikes. However, they are mandatory for anyone under the age of 18 to wear a helmet while riding a Class 3 e-bike. Likewise, motorcycles, electric or gas powered require helmets by law.

Speed Limits

Adhering to speed limits is essential for safer and legal e-bike riding. Class 2 e-bikes, for example, must have their motor shut off at 20 miles per hour. All e-bikes should adhere to the speed limits established for the paths they use.

Equipment Requirements

- E-bikes **must** be equipped with a brake capable of making a braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
- Use lights at night. The e-bike should be equipped with a white front headlamp (visible from 500 ft) and a rear red reflector (visible from 300 ft) or red lamp (visible from 500 ft).
- A person may not operate an e-bike unless the electric motor disengages or ceases to function either:
 - (1) when the operator stops pedaling;
or
 - (2) when the brakes are applied.
- E-bikes are not specifically required to have a bell or horn under Texas state law. However, having a bell or horn can be useful for safely alerting pedestrians and other cyclists.
- There is no state law requiring helmets for riders. However, wearing a helmet is strongly recommended for safety, regardless of age!

***"Helping to protect you and your children is one of our most important missions. This information is intended to help avoid the tragic outcomes we have seen in other communities where e-bike accidents result in serious injury or death."
-Sheriff Wesley Doolittle***