

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE ADAM WOOL

Session: January – April
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HB 87 Sponsor Statement Electric-Assisted bicycles

Electric-assisted bicycles are an emerging and exciting source of exercise, transportation, and recreation for Alaska's residents. Currently, the state of Alaska does not have any laws pertaining to electric-assisted bicycles, nor related references to operating licenses, safety requirements, local traffic laws, or related definitions. Despite this, an electric-assisted bicycle does not fit into existing definitions of any other type of vehicle. A new definition in statute is needed to address electric-assisted bicycles that can help to remove confusion for electric-assisted bicycle owners and retailers.

On the municipal level, the Municipality of Anchorage defined low-speed electric bicycles in 2016. On the state level, forty-seven states define electric bicycles, with thirty-eight states classifying e-bikes with a three-tiered industry standard definition. Adding this definition will regulate electric-assisted bicycles as a bicycle – clarifying that Alaskans do not need a driver's license or to wear a helmet to operate an electric-assisted bicycle; they are not subject to registration, licensing, or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles; and they may be operated where regulations currently allow for bicycles to be operated.

Please join me in supporting House Bill 87 to bring our statutes up to date to reflect technological and recreational advances related to electric-assisted bicycles.

My staff on this legislation is Ashley Carrick. She can be reached at 907-465-6959 or at ashley.carrick@akleg.gov.