

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-2450  
LAA.Legal@akleg.gov  
120 4th Street, Room 3

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

February 27, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Electric-Assisted Bicycles  
(HB 8; Work Order No. 33-LS0196\A)

**TO:** Representative Ashley Carrick  
Attn: Stuart Relay

**FROM:** Margret Bergerud *Margret Bergerud*  
Legislative Counsel

You asked whether municipalities may prohibit the use of electric-assisted bicycles (ebikes) on sidewalks under HB 8. The short answer is yes. AS 28.05.011(a), as amended by sec. 3 of the bill, provides that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) may not prohibit the use of ebikes on pedestrian paths. However, the section also specifically provides that this limitation does not apply to a municipal ordinance regulating ebikes enacted to meet local requirements. Page 2, lines 14 – 18 of the bill also require that, unless DPS adopts contrary regulations, an ebike must be treated as a bicycle. Therefore, a municipality may enact an ordinance prohibiting the use of ebikes on pedestrian paths in the municipality if ebikes are treated identically to bicycles. In fact, ordinances that prohibit the use of bicycles on pedestrian paths or sidewalks, or enact speed limits on bicycles in those areas, would automatically apply to ebikes upon the effective date of this bill.