

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HB 123 Sponsor Statement

Electric-assisted bicycles

The purpose of HB 123 is to clearly define electric-assisted bicycle in statute. 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. 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 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, thirty-three states in some manner define electric bicycles. Adding this definition will regulate electric-assisted bicycles as a bicycle - clarifying that Alaskans do not need a driver's license or 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 123 to bring our statutes up to date to reflect technological advances related to electric-assisted bicycles.