



# Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

Senate District P Fairbanks & Badger Road

## **SB 62** **Sponsor Statement**

*“An act relating to electric bicycles.”*

Electrically assisted bicycles (known colloquially as “e-bikes”) are an emerging and exciting source of exercise, transportation, and recreation for Alaskans. Currently, Alaska does not have any laws pertaining to electrically assisted bicycles, nor related references to operating licenses, safety requirements, local traffic laws, or related definitions. This is problematic because electrically assisted bicycles do not currently fit into existing definitions of any other type of vehicle. A new definition in statute is needed to address electrically assisted bicycles that should resolve this confusion for electrically assisted bicycle owners and retailers.

Forty-six other states define electric bicycles and thirty-nine of those states classify e-bikes with a three-tiered industry standard definition. Here in Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage defined low-speed electric bicycles in 2016. Adding this definition to statute will regulate electrically assisted bicycles as a bicycle, and that any current statute related to bicycles includes electrically assisted bicycles. Additionally, e-bikes are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles and they may be operated where regulations currently allow bicycles to be operated.

Additionally, this legislation has passed the House in the two legislatures preceding the 33<sup>rd</sup>. Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 62 to update our statutes so that all Alaskans may enjoy and use electrically assisted bicycles.

My staff on this legislation is Matt Longabaugh. He can be reached at 907-465-3466 or at [Matt.Longabaugh@akleg.gov](mailto:Matt.Longabaugh@akleg.gov)

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