

AB 1569: Electric Bicycles (E-Bike) Online Training

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

IN BRIEF

AB 1569 would require the California Department of Education (CDE) in collaboration with the Department of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to develop a new standardized electric bicycle safety and training program for pupils in grades 7 to 12.

THE ISSUE

Since their introduction to the market, electric bikes (E-bikes) have provided countless Californians new freedoms and means of transportation around cities and towns. In addition to their accessibility, these products have also proven to be environmentally friendly and cheaper alternatives to diesel-powered cars.

Unfortunately, while these products have made traveling relatively easy, they have also been shown to be dangerous for those untrained or unprepared on how to operate them. In 2023, [a study](#) was published in Surgery Open Science that found that “children aged 10 to 13 make up nearly 44% of all e-bike injuries, highlighting the vulnerability of middle-school-aged riders.”

In 2022 to help combat this issue and increase awareness for school-aged riders, the Legislature passed AB 2028 (Davies) giving schools the option to include trainings provided by law enforcement to students. While that law has been effective, as more and more of these devices become the new mode of transportation for many students, further actions is needed to protect riders and fellow motorists.

Schools are high-traffic environments. Developing a training with multiple stakeholders at the table ensures that student riders learn things such as "dismount zones" and pedestrian-first protocols, protecting non-riding students and staff.

By creating safety education, California can encourage the environmental benefits of

micromobility while ensuring that e-bikes remain a solution for school commutes rather than a public health liability.

CURRENT LAW

Existing law authorizes the governing board of any school district having jurisdiction over elementary, intermediate, junior high, or high school to provide time and facilities to local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the school of the district for bicycle, scooter, electric bicycle, motorized bicycle, or motorized scooter safety instruction. (California Education Code 51860).

THE SOLUTION

The proposed bill would require CDE and CHP to develop a new safety training program for student riders and additionally encourage schools and parent groups to host in-person training seminars for students to learn how to physically ride one of these devices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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