



## MASSACHUSETTS' ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » In Massachusetts, an electric bicycle is defined as a “motorized bicycle” as long as its maximum speed is 25mph. As motorized bicycles, electric bicycles are not subject to the same rules of the road as regular bicycles.
- » Electric bicycle riders must carry an operator’s license and are subject to registration requirements. Electric bicycles are not subject to insurance requirements.

- » Helmets are required, and there is a 16 year age minimum for electric bicycle use. Electric bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks or bike paths.

\*The following Massachusetts laws are referenced: Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 90-1, ch. 90-1B through 90-1D.

## eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, country and local trails, electric mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.
- » Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.
- » eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.
- » Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.
- » When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

## MASSACHUSETTS' ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) defines electric bicycles within the three class system. Class 1 electric bicycles are permitted on improved DCR trails of 8 feet in width or greater, in places where vehicular traffic is permitted and bicycles are not otherwise prohibited, and in bicycle lanes on DCR roadways.
- » FEDERAL: There is little federal land managed for recreation in Massachusetts. However, for reference, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails on federal lands.

## CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at [peopleforbikes.org/emtb](http://peopleforbikes.org/emtb)
- » eMTB “Adventures” at [peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes](http://peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes)

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN MASSACHUSETTS

- » **Pittsfield State Forest**  
Pittsfield | 39 miles
- » **October Mountain State Forest**  
Lee | 69 miles

**With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.**

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state’s law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.



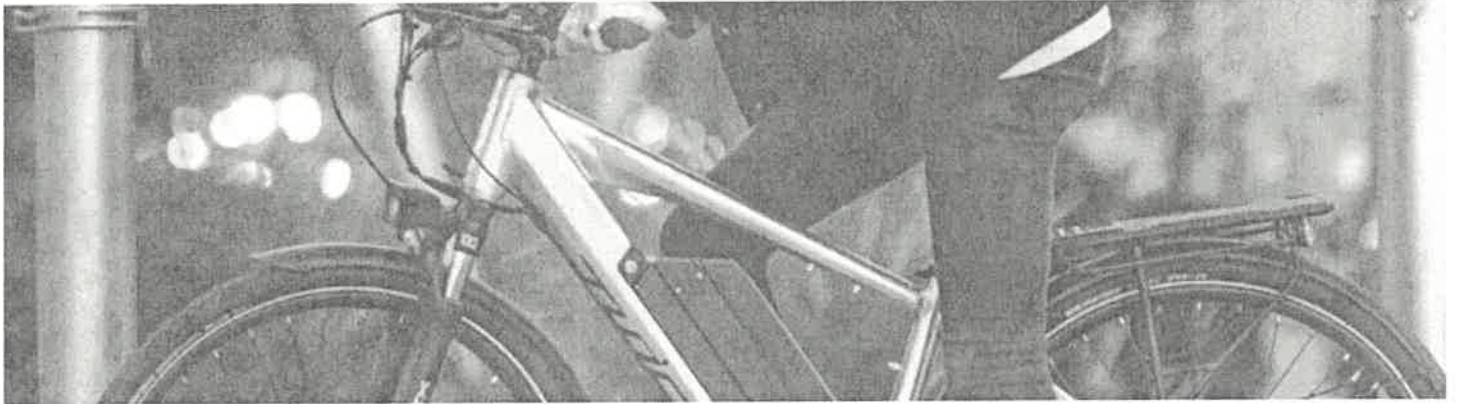
Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes](http://PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes)

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
- » Electric bicycle statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
- » eMTB management resources



## **Massachusetts**

E-bikes are defined as "motorized bicycles" in the state of Massachusetts as long as the max speed is 25mph or less. Massachusetts requires e-bike riders to have a license as well as registration for the bike, but does not require insurance. Helmets are required by law and the minimum age to ride an e-bike is 16. Massachusetts also does not allow e-bikes to be ridden on public sidewalks or bike paths.



## E-Bike Classifications and Laws

*Mass Doesn't use the 3 class system*

Federal laws give states the freedom to regulate electric bikes in unique ways. Classification systems and e-bike laws in California are different from those you'll find in other states. If you own an e-bike or are considering purchasing one, take some time to understand California's regulations, as well as those you'll encounter across state lines.

### Electric Bike Laws and Regulations

There are three different e-bikes classes. Classes were created to determine how e-bikes should be used according to local e-bike laws. Currently, 36 states across the U.S. utilize the three-class system for electric bikes. States may alter some details within their three-tier systems, but most are very similar. The classes include:

- **Class 1:** The Class 1 e-bike provides assistance only when you pedal, and stops assisting when you reach 20 mph — great for bike lanes, bike paths, roads or anywhere you'd take a traditional bike.
- **Class 2:** The Class 2 e-bike is equipped with a throttle which provides a boost without pedaling, and stops assisting at 20 mph.
- **Class 3:** The Class 3 e-bike is equipped with a speedometer, and only assists until the bike reaches 28 mph — an excellent choice for commuters. The most popular bikes fit into Class 3 because riders still want to pedal.

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## More Information on Class 2 Electric Bikes

The electric bike classes make many customers assume that class 2 electric bikes are one direct step up from class 1 e-bikes in handling or difficulty. Instead, the class 2 e-bike is suitable for a few extra surface terrain types, such as off-highway vehicle (OHVs) trails. If you're unfamiliar with OHV trails, they are popular paths for enthusiasts with dirt bikes, golf carts, jeeps and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs.)

When weighing whether to buy a class 1 vs class 2 e-bike, check out the specs of the bikes you're considering. Like class 1 bikes, class 2 e-bikes have pedal assistance up to 20 mph and throttle-only mode, where the motor can work independently. This mode may be valuable to you if you're unable to pedal because of an injury or limited mobility.

## Need-to-Know Facts About Class 3 Electric Bikes

Speed differentiates class 3 e-bikes from their counterparts in the other classes. Electric bikes under this classification continue to garner support by e-bike fans, especially ones eager for adventures. Because class 3 e-bikes offer pedal assistance up to 28 mph, they help riders go faster. Like all Juiced Bikes, class 3 versions have a throttle, so your motor is always ready to help. That means you can reach your destination with less legwork.

Is a class 3 electric bike the ideal choice for your unique needs and riding style? If you're interested in both commuting and adventuring, we recommend checking out the full lineup of class 3 models from Juiced Bikes. You may even see some e-bikes that can qualify for a few classes available on our website. From sporty, moped-style frames to the ultimate variant in light commuters, our wide range of class 3 e-bikes will help you get where you're going safely and stylishly.

Please be careful to obey local rules if you're using bike-only paths for your cruising. Many places have electric bike regulations that prohibit class 3 e-bikes from some lanes and trails because of their speed, and such rules discourage visitors from racing.

## California Electric Bike Laws

Since there are so many different types of electric bikes out there with different capabili

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Knowing the class of your e-bike or your future e-bike will tell you where and how you can ride. For instance, in California, a class 3 electric requires that the rider wear a helmet. E-bike users in class 2 and below can be any age and have access to pathways meant for cyclists.

## Blending Different Classes

Juiced Bikes are super versatile e-bikes that can be used for a wide variety of purposes and can fit into multiple classes depending on the mode you are using. When you own an electric bike that meets the specifications of more than one class, you can enjoy the benefits of each class at different points. If you ride a bike that toes the line between two classifications, you have more control over how and where you ride.

If you have an e-bike that allows you to pedal or not pedal to power the bike, that model could be class 1 or class 2 in a 3-class system. Or, if you have a e-bike where you can change out the battery, you could even go between a class 2 and a class 3 specification. This added versatility gives you access to other bikeways in the state and more ways to use this versatile, fun and environmentally friendly way to get around.

## E-Bike Classifications Outside of California

All fifty states and Washington, D.C. define e-bikes in some capacity, but their classifications can be slightly different from state to state. Here's how e-bike classification looks outside of CA.

### Tiered Categorization

Of the states that categorize e-bikes, 36 of them use a three-tier system similar to what we discussed above. Tiered categorization allows states to separate e-bikes from other motorized vehicles like mopeds or scooters. Most of the classification parameters in these states are fairly similar, so riders shouldn't have much trouble understanding the overlap.

### Non-tiered Categorization

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and a few others. Some states allow e-bikes on sidewalks as well as roads, including Arizona, Washington, Minnesota and Utah. Even so, keep in mind that these states may limit which e-bike classes can ride on the sidewalk.

## Multi-use Trail Regulations

Whether or not you can ride an e-bike on multi-use trails is up to local and state governments. Some states like Colorado have implemented pilot programs to test how e-bikers affect other riders on rail trails and hiking paths. Inquire with city officials to determine if e-bikes are allowed on local multi-use trails.

## Contact Juiced Bikes

The experts at Juiced Bikes are here to help you understand which e-bikes you can ride and where you can ride them in California and beyond. If you are unsure about which Juiced Bikes models fit into the three classifications, please contact us online for more information!

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