



## RHODE ISLAND'S E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » E-bikes are defined as “electric motorized bicycles,” and are subject to the licensing and insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles. However, Rhode Island’s Department of Motor Vehicles does not recognize e-bikes as vehicles with these requirements and has no system for supplying licensing. Therefore, riding an electric bicycle in Rhode Island is illegal.
- » Electric motorized bicycles are defined as vehicles with a power output no greater than 1,491w, a maximum speed of 25mph and fully operable pedals.

- » Helmets are not required for those over 16 years, and the age minimum for electric motorized bicycle use in general is 16 years. Motorized bicycles are allowed on sidewalks and bike paths. However, these restrictions are inapplicable to electric bicycles since they fall outside of Rhode Island’s definition of an electric motorized bicycle.

\* The following Rhode Island laws are referenced: R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-1-3; § 31-3-2.2; § 31-19.1.1.

## eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, county and local trails, e-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.

## RHODE ISLAND'S E-BIKE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The Rhode Island Division of Planning and Development does not currently have an eMTB policy. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: There is little federal land managed for recreation in Rhode Island. However, for reference, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails on federal lands.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN RHODE ISLAND

- » **Kent County Gravel Route**  
Kent County | 48 miles
- » **Rhodekill Spring Classic**  
Warwick | 64 miles

### CHECK OUT

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

## With an e-bike, 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, e-bikes are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes and the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association are clarifying state laws governing the use of e-bikes in the U.S. Every state’s law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed e-bikes are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.



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

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

