
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5471

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, J. Wilson, Shewmake, Randall, Lovelett, Valdez, C. Wilson, Dhingra, Kuderer, Liias, and Van De Wege)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of electric-assisted bicycles on
2 certain trails and roads by persons with disabilities; amending RCW
3 79A.35.140; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79A.35.140 and 2021 c 191 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) (a) The department of natural resources and the department of
8 fish and wildlife shall each undergo a public process to collect
9 information related to electric-assisted bicycle use on nonmotorized
10 natural surface trails and closed roads open to bicycles to determine
11 where such use may occur, and which classes of electric-assisted
12 bicycles are acceptable on such trails and roads under the agencies'
13 management. The public processes must also include a consideration of
14 opportunities to improve awareness of applicable trail rules and
15 trail etiquette among all classes of trail users.

16 ~~((2))~~ (b) The public processes shall include, but not be
17 limited to, input from tribes, individuals with disabilities,
18 representatives of natural resource conservation organizations, and
19 representatives of outdoor recreation interests representing
20 horseback riding, traditional and electric-assisted mountain biking,
21 hiking, and hunting. The department of natural resources and the

1 department of fish and wildlife must report their findings to the
2 appropriate committees of the legislature by September 30, 2022.

3 ~~((3))~~ (2) Until June 30, ~~((2023))~~ 2025, or until ~~((legislation~~
4 ~~is enacted or rules are adopted))~~ an applicable local or regional
5 planning process adopts policies or rules related to the use of
6 electric-assisted bicycles on nonmotorized natural surface trails and
7 closed roads on lands managed by the department of natural resources
8 and by the department of fish and wildlife, whichever is earlier, the
9 department of natural resources and the department of fish and
10 wildlife must allow persons who possess a current parking placard for
11 persons with disabilities, issued by the department of transportation
12 pursuant to RCW 46.19.030, to use class 1 and class 2 electric-
13 assisted bicycles, as defined in RCW 46.04.169, on all nonmotorized
14 natural surface trails and closed roads on which bicycles are
15 allowed.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
18 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
19 effect July 1, 2023.

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