

## TEXAS' E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » E-bikes are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both e-bikes and human-powered bicycles.
- » E-bikes are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » Texas designates three classes of e-bikes:
  - Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 28 mph.
- » You must be 15 or older to operate a Class 3 e-bike, although a person under 15 may ride a Class 3 e-bike as a passenger, if the e-bike is designed to carry more than one person.
- » The state department or local authority with jurisdiction can implement certain restrictions, such as on sidewalks and dedicated mountain bike trails. E-bikes generally may not be restricted in places where bicycles are allowed to operate. When in doubt, check for local rules and regulations.

\* The following Texas laws are referenced: Tex. Trans. Code §502.143; 541.201; 541.202; 551.001; 551.106; 551.107; 664.001. This law will go into effect September 1, 2019.

## 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.

## 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)

## TEXAS' E-BIKE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is considering new regulations around e-bike access but does not currently allow e-bikes on non-motorized trails. Contact the department for the most up to date information and specific trail rules. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: On federal lands, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Southern Regional Office or Big Bend National Park for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN TEXAS

- » **Emma Long Motocross Park** | Austin | 5.7 miles
- » **Reimer's Ranch** | Round Mountain | 13.6 miles
- » **Pace Bend Park** | Spicewood | 12.2 miles
- » **San Gabriel River Goodwater Loop** | Georgetown | 25.8 miles



## 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

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.