

# WEST VIRGINIA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



## WEST VIRGINIA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » Electric bicycles are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both electric bicycles and human-powered bicycles.
- » Electric bicycles are not subject to the registration, licensing, or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » West Virginia designates three classes of electric bicycles:
  - Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycles reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 2: Bicycles equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.

\* The following West Virginia laws are referenced: W. Va. House Bill 2062 (2023).

## 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.

## CHECK OUT

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

## 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.

- Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric
- » Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles are allowed on bike paths, multi-use trails and single-use trails where non-electric bicycles are allowed. Class 3 may not be unless the jurisdiction expressly permits it.
- » Passengers on Class 3 electric bicycles under the age of 15 must be on an electric bicycle driven by someone 18 years.
- » All operators and passengers under 15 years old must wear a helmet.
- » A city, town or state agency that has jurisdiction can restrict where electric bicycles are allowed. When in doubt, check for local rules and regulations before riding.

## WEST VIRGINIA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The West Virginia State Parks and Forest 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: The majority of public lands managed for recreation in West Virginia are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Office for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN WEST VIRGINIA

- » Cheat Mountain Loop  
Huttonsville | 14.5 miles

- » Hilly Billy Roubaix  
Monongalia County | 76 miles



## Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes](https://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

