

**DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU**

NOTICE

January 21, 2025

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TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Department Traffic Coordinator, Transit Services Bureau

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1744 – VEHICLES:
ELECTRICAL BICYCLES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to advise all Department personnel of new California Assembly Bill 1744 legislation that revises Section 24016 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) to enhance electric bicycle safety.

BACKGROUND

With the increasing popularity of electric bicycles, modifying these bicycles to exceed the speed limits specified in Section 312.5 CVC, has become a simple process. Such modification can result in the bicycle becoming a non-street legal motorcycle or moped, which is regulated by other provisions of the CVC. This Bill, which is effective January 1, 2025, will revise and add the following italicized subsections to Section 24016 CVC:

(d) A person shall not tamper with or modify an electric bicycle described in subdivision (a) of Section 312.5 so as to change the speed capability of the bicycle, unless *the bicycle continues to meet the definition of an electric bicycle under subdivision (a) of Section 312.5 and the person* appropriately replaces the label indicating the classification required in subdivision (c) of Section 312.5.

(e) *A person shall not sell a product or device that can modify the speed capability of an electric bicycle such that it no longer meets the definition of an electric bicycle under subdivision (a) of Section 312.5.*

Note: Any violation of Section 24016 CVC shall be handled as a misdemeanor.

The following is an excerpt, in part, from 312.5 CVC:

(a) An “electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

- (1) A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (2) A "class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (3) A "class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.

PROCEDURE

Department personnel who encounter a bicycle that has been modified and in violation of Sections (d) or (e) of 24016 may cite the violator on a Los Angeles Police Department Traffic Notice to Appear, Form 04.50.00.

If you have any questions, please contact Traffic Coordination Section, Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0690.

APPROVED:



DONALD R. GRAHAM, Jr., Deputy Chief
Department Traffic Coordinator
Transit Services Bureau



T. SCOTT HARRELSON, Deputy Chief
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Police

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