

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRIC BICYCLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 291C-150, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~§~~**291C-150**~~§~~ **Bicycle helmets.** (a) No person under
4 sixteen years of age shall operate a bicycle upon a street,
5 bikeway, or any other public property unless that person is
6 wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that has
7 been tested by a nationally recognized agency such as the
8 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National
9 Safety Council, or the Children's Safety Network, and is
10 designed to fit the user and protect against head trauma. This
11 requirement also applies to a person who rides upon a bicycle
12 while in a restraining seat that is attached to the bicycle or
13 who rides in a trailer towed by the bicycle.

14 (b) A person who:

15 (1) Is under eighteen years of age and who operates a
16 high-speed electric bicycle upon a street, bikeway, or
17 any other public property; or



1 (2) Rides upon a bicycle while in a restraining seat that
2 is attached to the bicycle, or in a trailer towed by
3 the bicycle;

4 shall wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that
5 has been tested by a nationally recognized agency such as the
6 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National
7 Safety Council, or the Children's Safety Network, and is
8 designed to fit the user and protect against head trauma.

9 [~~b~~] (c) A person who provides bicycles for hire shall
10 not rent a bicycle to any person unless every person who is
11 under age sixteen is wearing a bicycle helmet, as required in
12 subsection (a), while operating the rented bicycle, occupying a
13 restraining seat that is attached to the rented bicycle, or
14 riding in a trailer towed by the rented bicycle.

15 [~~e~~] (d) A violation of this section is punishable by a
16 fine of not more than \$25. The parent or legal guardian having
17 control or custody of an unemancipated minor whose conduct
18 violates this section shall be liable for the amount of the fine
19 imposed pursuant to this section.

20 [~~d~~] (e) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
21 fines collected for a violation of this section shall be paid



1 into the state treasury to the credit of the state general
2 fund."

3 SECTION 2. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended as follows:

5 (1) By adding the definition of "high-speed electric
6 bicycle" to read:

7 "High-speed electric bicycle" means a two- or
8 three-wheeled vehicle with an electric motor of seven hundred
9 fifty watts or one horsepower or more, having a maximum speed on
10 a paved level surface, when powered solely by the motor, of
11 twenty miles per hour or more."

12 (2) By amending the definition of "motorcycle" to read:

13 "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a seat or
14 saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not
15 more than three wheels in contact with the ground [~~but excludes~~
16 ~~a farm tractor and a moped.~~], including a high-speed electric
17 bicycle. "Motorcycle" does not include a farm tractor or
18 moped."

19 SECTION 3. Section 286-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending the definition of "motorcycle" to read as
21 follows:



1 ""Motorcycle" means:

2 (1) Every motor vehicle that has a handlebar and seating
3 that requires the operator to straddle or sit astride
4 on it and is designed to travel on no more than three
5 wheels in contact with the ground, but excludes a farm
6 tractor and a moped; or

7 (2) Every motor vehicle that has a steering wheel or
8 handlebar and seating that does not require the
9 operator to straddle or sit astride on it, is designed
10 to travel on three wheels in contact with the ground,
11 and is called an auticycle, which is certified by the
12 manufacturer to comply with all applicable Federal
13 Motor Vehicle Safety Standards as of the date of
14 manufacture.

15 (3) A high-speed electric bicycle, as defined in
16 section 291C-1."

17 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
19 begun before its effective date.

20 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Dan Claitor



S.B. NO. 745

Report Title:

High-Speed Electric Bicycle; Motorcycle; Helmet; License;
Safety; Traffic Code

Description:

Requires all riders of a high-speed electric bicycle who are under 18 years of age or in a restraining seat or trailer towed by the bicycle to wear a safety helmet. Requires licensure of high-speed electric bicycle operators. Defines "high-speed electric bicycle."

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

