

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: April 20, 2021  
To: Transportation Committee  
From: Karen S. Nadeau, Legislative Analyst

### **LD 1109 – An Act To Align Equipment Requirements for Electric Bicycles with National Manufacturing Standards**

- This bill restricts the speedometer requirement for electric bicycles to Class 3 electric bicycles to align the requirement with national manufacturing standards.

#### **Proponents:** *Bicycle Coalition of Maine*

- Class 3 electric-assist bicycles are the fastest class of electric-assist bicycles, reaching a maximum speed of 28 mph. Typically, these are the only electric-assist bicycles that come with built-in speedometers.
- LD will align Maine law with national bike manufacturing standards and correct an oversight in the original language.
- The mandate (speedometers on all electric-assist bicycles) is unnecessary and complicates things for small bike shops that carry electric-assist bicycles.
- Electric-assist bicycles are encouraging more people (of all ages, shapes and abilities) to get outside and pedal.
- Electric-assist bicycles have the potential to promote greater access to active transportation for a healthier lifestyle and environment.

#### **Opponents:** *None*

**NFNA:** *None*

### **RECENT LEGISLATION**

**129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session – LD 1222 AA Regarding Electric Bicycles - PL 2019, chapter 349**

#### **Classes of Electric Bicycles: 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§22-B**

**22-B. Electric bicycle.** "Electric bicycle" means a 2-wheel or 3-wheel bicycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that is a Class 1 electric bicycle, a Class 2 electric bicycle or a Class 3 electric bicycle as defined in this subsection.

A. "Class 1 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

B. "Class 2 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that is capable of being used exclusively to propel the bicycle but is not capable of propelling the bicycle at a speed of 20 miles per hour.

C. "Class 3 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** *Not yet received.*