

Submitter: James Teeter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3626

I strongly urge you to allow children ages 12 to 16 to ride Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes. Expanding access to these safe and efficient modes of transportation will provide numerous benefits for youth, families, and our communities.

First, e-bikes give young riders greater independence and mobility, allowing them to travel to school, activities, and jobs without requiring car-dependent parents to shuttle them around. This not only reduces family transportation burdens but also fosters responsibility and self-reliance among youth.

Second, e-bikes promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging active transportation. While some may argue that electric assistance replaces exercise, research shows that e-bike riders still achieve significant physical activity. For many young riders, an e-bike enables longer trips and greater confidence in navigating hilly terrain or strong headwinds—factors that might otherwise discourage them from biking at all.

Additionally, e-bikes provide a safer, more accessible alternative to traditional bikes for those who may struggle with physical ability or endurance. They allow youth to keep pace with family members on longer rides and make cycling a viable transportation option for a broader demographic.

Lastly, increasing e-bike access for young riders aligns with our broader climate and transportation goals. By giving youth a practical alternative to car trips, we reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and create safer, more vibrant streets for everyone.

Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, which are capped at 20 mph, are safe, manageable, and well-suited for younger riders when used with appropriate education and safety measures. I urge you to support policies that allow youth ages 12 to 16 to legally ride these e-bikes and embrace them as a key part of a sustainable transportation future.