

SOUTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



SOUTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » Electric bicycles lack a specific classification under current South Carolina traffic laws. However, “electric bicycles” are “vehicles” and are therefore subject to the requirements for “vehicles.”
- » Electric bicycles equipped with motors that have a power output of less than 750 watts are specifically exempt from the definition of “moped.” Therefore, electric bicycles are not subject to requirements that apply to “mopeds,” such as licensing and registration.

- » Electric bicycles are subject to the rules of the road that apply to vehicles.
- » Consult your local authority or agency for more information about electric bicycle regulation in your jurisdiction, including whether they are allowed on bicycle paths.

*The following South Carolina laws are referenced: S.C. Code §§ 56-1-10(26), (28).

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.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The South Carolina State Parks Department 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 South Carolina 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 Southern Regional Office for more information.

CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb
- » eMTB “Adventures” at peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

» Cedar Springs OHV Trail

Abbeville | 11 miles

» Parsons Mountain OHV Trail

Abbeville | 10 miles

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.



Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes

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