

Unintended Consequences Of P.L. 2025, C.285 (Regulating Certain Electric Bicycles) [S-4834](#)/[A-6235](#) was signed into law on January 19, 2026

The Issue:

- The intent of updating state vehicle code [R.S.39:1-1](#) was to address safety risks and recent crashes involving high-powered electric motorcycles (“e-motos”). The law incorrectly focused on low-speed electric bicycles, creating confusion, conflicting standards, and new barriers for everyday riders.
- High-powered electric motorbikes (“e-motos”), are unsafe, largely unregulated products that are frequently conflated with low-speed electric bicycles.

Unintended Consequences of Current Law:

- **Conflicts with federal law** by imposing motor vehicle requirements on low-speed electric bicycles, which are federally treated as consumer products and exempt from more restrictive state definitions, while high-speed devices remain underregulated.
- **Creates confusion** by labeling both electric bicycles and e-motos as “bicycles” while applying nearly identical standards to very different vehicle types.
- **Fails to address deceptive marketing** of high-speed e-motos as “e-bikes.”
- **Discourages low-speed electric bicycle use** through registration, licensing, and insurance requirements, DOT-helmet requirements, restrictions from carrying children on e-bikes and elimination of e-tricycles used by persons with disabilities, creating multiple unnecessary barriers to active, climate-friendly transportation.
- **Harms small businesses across the state**, with bike shops reporting significant declines in sales of electric bicycles and increased returns following enactment of the law.

Proposed Solutions:

- **Restore** clear definitions aligned with federal law for Class 1 and 2 low-speed electric bicycles limited to 20 mph.
- **Remove unnecessary burdens on low speed e-bikes**, including registration, licensing, and insurance requirements.
- **Define and regulate e-motos as motorcycles**, including requirements for licensing, registration, insurance, age restrictions, and safety standards.
- **Prohibit deceptive e-moto marketing** through clear consumer disclosures.
- Close loopholes on common vehicle **tampering practices**.
- **Strengthen enforcement through** officer training and data collection.

Bottom Line- This proposal improves public safety by targeting high-speed e-motos while preserving access to safe low-speed electric bicycles that people rely on for transportation and everyday mobility.