

# SENATE, No. 3510

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

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**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits operation of low-speed electric bicycles.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/13/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning electric bicycles, amending R.S.39:1-1, and  
2 supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. R.S.39:1-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:1-1. As used in this subtitle, unless other meaning is clearly  
9 apparent from the language or context, or unless inconsistent with  
10 the manifest intention of the Legislature:

11 "Alley" means a public highway wherein the roadway does not  
12 exceed 12 feet in width.

13 "Authorized emergency vehicles" means vehicles of the fire  
14 department, police vehicles and such ambulances and other vehicles  
15 as are approved by the chief administrator when operated in  
16 response to an emergency call.

17 "Autocycle" means a three-wheeled motorcycle designed to be  
18 controlled with a steering wheel and pedals in which the operator  
19 and passenger may ride in a completely or partially enclosed seating  
20 area that is equipped with a roll cage or roll hoops, safety seat belts  
21 for each occupant, and anti-lock brakes.

22 "Automobile" includes all motor vehicles except motorcycles.

23 "Berm" means that portion of the highway exclusive of roadway  
24 and shoulder, bordering the shoulder but not to be used for  
25 vehicular travel.

26 "Business district" means that portion of a highway and the  
27 territory contiguous thereto, where within any 600 feet along such  
28 highway there are buildings in use for business or industrial  
29 purposes, including but not limited to hotels, banks, office  
30 buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings which occupy at  
31 least 300 feet of frontage on one side or 300 feet collectively on  
32 both sides of the roadway.

33 "Car pool" means two or more persons commuting on a daily  
34 basis to and from work by means of a vehicle with a seating  
35 capacity of nine passengers or less.

36 "Chief Administrator" or "Administrator" means the Chief  
37 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

38 "Commercial motor vehicle" includes every type of motor-driven  
39 vehicle used for commercial purposes on the highways, such as the  
40 transportation of goods, wares and merchandise, excepting such  
41 vehicles as are run only upon rails or tracks and vehicles of the  
42 passenger car type used for touring purposes or the carrying of farm  
43 products and milk, as the case may be.

44 "Commission" means the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
45 Commission established by section 4 of P.L.2003, c.13 (C.39:2A-  
46 4).

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation of  
2 this State.

3 "Commuter van" means a motor vehicle having a seating  
4 capacity of not less than seven nor more than 15 adult passengers,  
5 in which seven or more persons commute on a daily basis to and  
6 from work and which vehicle may also be operated by the driver or  
7 other designated persons for their personal use.

8 "Crosswalk" means that part of a highway at an intersection,  
9 either marked or unmarked existing at each approach of every  
10 roadway intersection, included within the connections of the lateral  
11 lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured  
12 from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the  
13 shoulder, or, if none, from the edges of the roadway; also, any  
14 portion of a highway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly  
15 indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other marking on the  
16 surface.

17 "Curb extension" or "bulbout" means a horizontal extension of  
18 the sidewalk into the street which results in a narrower roadway  
19 section.

20 "Dealer" includes every person actively engaged in the business  
21 of buying, selling or exchanging motor vehicles or motorcycles and  
22 who has an established place of business.

23 "Deputy Chief Administrator" means the deputy chief  
24 administrator of the commission.

25 "Driver" means the rider or driver of a horse, bicycle or  
26 motorcycle or the driver or operator of a motor vehicle, unless  
27 otherwise specified.

28 "Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical  
29 mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of  
30 producing an explosion and which contains any oxidizing and  
31 combustive units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities  
32 or packing that an ignition by fire, friction, by concussion, by  
33 percussion, or by detonator of any part of the compound or mixture  
34 may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the  
35 resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive  
36 effects on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb.

37 "Farm tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used  
38 primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing  
39 machines, and other implements of husbandry.

40 "Flammable liquid" means any liquid having a flash point below  
41 200 degrees Fahrenheit, and a vapor pressure not exceeding 40  
42 pounds.

43 "Gross weight" means the combined weight of a vehicle and a  
44 load thereon.

45 "High occupancy vehicle" or "HOV" means a vehicle which is  
46 used to transport two or more persons and shall include public  
47 transportation, car pool, van pool, and other vehicles as determined  
48 by regulation of the Department of Transportation.

1 "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of  
2 every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the  
3 use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

4 "Horse" includes mules and all other domestic animals used as  
5 draught animals or beasts of burden.

6 "Inside lane" means the lane nearest the center line of the  
7 roadway.

8 "Intersection" means the area embraced within the prolongation  
9 of the lateral curb lines or, if none, the lateral boundary lines of two  
10 or more highways which join one another at an angle, whether or  
11 not one such highway crosses another.

12 "Laned roadway" means a roadway which is divided into two or  
13 more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

14 "Leased limousine" means any limousine subject to regulation in  
15 the State which:

16 a. Is offered for rental or lease, without a driver, to be operated  
17 by a limousine service as the lessee, for the purpose of carrying  
18 passengers for hire; and

19 b. Is leased or rented for a period of one year or more  
20 following registration.

21 "Leased motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle subject to  
22 registration in this State which:

23 a. Is offered for rental or lease, without a driver, to be operated  
24 by the lessee, his agent or servant, for purposes other than the  
25 transportation of passengers for hire; and

26 b. Is leased or rented for a period of one year or more  
27 following registration.

28 "Limited-access highway" means every highway, street, or  
29 roadway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands  
30 and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same  
31 except at such points only and in such manner as may be  
32 determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such  
33 highway, street, or roadway; and includes any highway designated  
34 as a "freeway" or "parkway" by authority of law.

35 "Local authorities" means every county, municipal and other  
36 local board or body having authority to adopt local police  
37 regulations under the Constitution and laws of this State, including  
38 every county governing body with relation to county roads.

39 "Low-speed electric bicycle" means a two or three-wheeled  
40 vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than  
41 750 watts, whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when  
42 powered solely by a motor while operated by a person weighing 170  
43 pounds, is less than 20 miles per hour.

44 "Low-speed vehicle" means a four-wheeled low-speed vehicle,  
45 as defined in 49 [CFR] C.F.R. s.571.3(b), whose attainable speed is  
46 more than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour on  
47 a paved level surface and which is not powered by gasoline or

1 diesel fuel and complies with federal safety standards as set forth in  
2 49 [CFR] C.F.R. s.571.500.

3 "Magistrate" means any municipal court and the Superior Court,  
4 and any officer having the powers of a committing magistrate and  
5 the chief administrator.

6 "Manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of  
7 manufacturing or assembling motor vehicles, who will, under  
8 normal business conditions during the year, manufacture or  
9 assemble at least 10 new motor vehicles.

10 "Metal tire" means every tire the surface of which in contact with  
11 the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other hard nonresilient  
12 material.

13 "Mid-block crosswalk" means a crosswalk located away from an  
14 intersection, distinctly indicated by lines or markings on the  
15 surface.

16 "Motorized bicycle" means a pedal bicycle having a helper motor  
17 characterized in that either the maximum piston displacement is less  
18 than 50 cc. or said motor is rated at no more than 1.5 brake  
19 horsepower or is powered by an electric drive motor and said  
20 bicycle is capable of a maximum speed of no more than 25 miles  
21 per hour on a flat surface. This term shall not include a low-speed  
22 electric bicycle as defined in this section.

23 "Motorcycle" includes motorcycles, autocycles, motor bikes,  
24 bicycles with motor attached and all motor-operated vehicles of the  
25 bicycle or tricycle type, except motorized bicycles and low-speed  
26 electric bicycles as defined in this section, whether the motive  
27 power be a part thereof or attached thereto and having a saddle or  
28 seat with driver sitting astride or upon it or a platform on which the  
29 driver stands.

30 "Motor-drawn vehicle" includes trailers, semitrailers, or any  
31 other type of vehicle drawn by a motor-driven vehicle.

32 "Motor vehicle" includes all vehicles propelled otherwise than by  
33 muscular power, excepting such vehicles as run only upon rails or  
34 tracks, low-speed electric bicycles, and motorized bicycles.

35 "Motorized scooter" means a miniature motor vehicle and  
36 includes, but is not limited to, pocket bikes, super pocket bikes,  
37 scooters, mini-scooters, sport scooters, mini choppers, mini  
38 motorcycles, motorized skateboards and other vehicles with motors  
39 not manufactured in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety  
40 Standards and which have no permanent Federal Safety  
41 Certification stickers affixed to the vehicle by the original  
42 manufacturer. This term shall not include: electric personal  
43 assistive mobility devices, motorized bicycles **[or]** , low-speed  
44 vehicles, or low-speed electric bicycles; or motorized wheelchairs,  
45 mobility scooters or similar mobility assisting devices used by  
46 persons with physical disabilities, or persons whose ambulatory  
47 mobility has been impaired by age or illness.

1 "Motorized skateboard" means a skateboard that is propelled  
2 otherwise than by muscular power.

3 "Motorized wheelchair" means any motor-driven wheelchair  
4 utilized to increase the independent mobility, in the activities of  
5 daily living, of an individual who has limited or no ambulation  
6 abilities, and includes mobility scooters manufactured specifically  
7 for such purposes and designed primarily for indoor use.

8 "Noncommercial truck" means every motor vehicle designed  
9 primarily for transportation of property, and which is not a  
10 "commercial vehicle."

11 "Official traffic control devices" means all signs, signals,  
12 markings, and devices not inconsistent with this subtitle placed or  
13 erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction  
14 for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

15 "Omnibus" includes all motor vehicles used for the  
16 transportation of passengers for hire, except commuter vans and  
17 vehicles used in ridesharing arrangements and school buses, if the  
18 same are not otherwise used in the transportation of passengers for  
19 hire.

20 "Operator" means a person who is in actual physical control of a  
21 vehicle or street car.

22 "Outside lane" means the lane nearest the curb or outer edge of  
23 the roadway.

24 "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title of a vehicle, or  
25 if a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or  
26 lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the  
27 conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of  
28 possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or if a  
29 mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the conditional  
30 vendee, lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the  
31 purpose of this subtitle.

32 "Parking" means the standing or waiting on a street, road or  
33 highway of a vehicle not actually engaged in receiving or  
34 discharging passengers or merchandise, unless in obedience to  
35 traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals.

36 "Passenger automobile" means all automobiles used and  
37 designed for the transportation of passengers, other than omnibuses  
38 and school buses.

39 "Pedestrian" means a person afoot.

40 "Person" includes natural persons, firms, copartnerships,  
41 associations, and corporations.

42 "Pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is  
43 designed to support the load.

44 "Pole trailer" means every vehicle without motive power  
45 designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing  
46 vehicle by means of a reach, or pole, or by being boomed or  
47 otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for  
48 transporting long or irregularly shaped loads, such as poles, pipes,

1 or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves  
2 as beams between the supporting connections.

3 "Private road or driveway" means every road or driveway not  
4 open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

5 "Railroad train" means a steam engine, electric or other motor,  
6 with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except  
7 street cars.

8 "Recreation vehicle" means a self-propelled or towed vehicle  
9 equipped to serve as temporary living quarters for recreational,  
10 camping or travel purposes and used solely as a family or personal  
11 conveyance.

12 "Residence district" means that portion of a highway and the  
13 territory contiguous thereto, not comprising a business district,  
14 where within any 600 feet along such highway there are buildings  
15 in use for business or residential purposes which occupy 300 feet or  
16 more of frontage on at least one side of the highway.

17 "Ridesharing" means the transportation of persons in a motor  
18 vehicle, with a maximum carrying capacity of not more than 15  
19 passengers, including the driver, where such transportation is  
20 incidental to the purpose of the driver. The term shall include such  
21 ridesharing arrangements known as car pools and van pools.

22 "Right-of-way" means the privilege of the immediate use of the  
23 highway.

24 "Road tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used for  
25 drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load  
26 thereon either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle  
27 or load so drawn.

28 "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed,  
29 or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or  
30 shoulder. In the event a highway includes two or more separate  
31 roadways, the term "roadway" as used herein shall refer to any such  
32 roadway separately, but not to all such roadways, collectively.

33 "Safety zone" means the area or space officially set aside within  
34 a highway for the exclusive use of pedestrians, which is so plainly  
35 marked or indicated by proper signs as to be plainly visible at all  
36 times while set apart as a safety zone.

37 "School bus" means every motor vehicle operated by, or under  
38 contract with, a public or governmental agency, or religious or other  
39 charitable organization or corporation, or privately operated for the  
40 transportation of children to or from school for secular or religious  
41 education, which complies with the regulations of the New Jersey  
42 Motor Vehicle Commission affecting school buses, including  
43 "School Vehicle Type I" and "School Vehicle Type II" as defined  
44 below:

45 "School Vehicle Type I" means any vehicle designed to transport  
46 16 or more passengers, including the driver, used to transport  
47 enrolled children, and adults only when serving as chaperones, to or  
48 from a school, school connected activity, day camp, summer day

1 camp, summer residence camp, nursery school, child care center,  
2 preschool center or other similar places of education. Such vehicle  
3 shall comply with the regulations of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
4 Commission and either the Department of Education or the  
5 Department of Human Services, whichever is the appropriate  
6 supervising agency.

7 "School Vehicle Type II" means any vehicle designed to  
8 transport less than 16 passengers, including the driver, used to  
9 transport enrolled children, and adults only when serving as  
10 chaperones, to or from a school, school connected activity, day  
11 camp, summer day camp, summer residence camp, nursery school,  
12 child care center, preschool center or other similar places of  
13 education. Such vehicle shall comply with the regulations of the  
14 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and either the Department  
15 of Education or the Department of Human Services, whichever is  
16 the appropriate supervising agency.

17 "School zone" means that portion of a highway which is either  
18 contiguous to territory occupied by a school building or is where  
19 school crossings are established in the vicinity of a school, upon  
20 which are maintained appropriate "school signs" in accordance with  
21 specifications adopted by the chief administrator and in accordance  
22 with law.

23 "School crossing" means that portion of a highway where school  
24 children are required to cross the highway in the vicinity of a  
25 school.

26 "Semitrailer" means every vehicle with or without motive power,  
27 other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property  
28 and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that  
29 some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried  
30 by another vehicle.

31 "Shipper" means any person who shall deliver, or cause to be  
32 delivered, any commodity, produce or article for transportation as  
33 the contents or load of a commercial motor vehicle. In the case of a  
34 sealed ocean container, "shipper" shall not be construed to include  
35 any person whose activities with respect to the shipment are limited  
36 to the solicitation or negotiation of the sale, resale, or exchange of  
37 the commodity, produce or article within that container.

38 "Shoulder" means that portion of the highway, exclusive of and  
39 bordering the roadway, designed for emergency use but not  
40 ordinarily to be used for vehicular travel.

41 "Sidewalk" means that portion of a highway intended for the use  
42 of pedestrians, between the curb line or the lateral line of a  
43 shoulder, or if none, the lateral line of the roadway and the adjacent  
44 right-of-way line.

45 "Sign." See "Official traffic control devices."

46 "Slow-moving vehicle" means a vehicle run at a speed less than  
47 the maximum speed then and there permissible.



1 "Solid tire" means every tire of rubber or other resilient material  
2 which does not depend upon compressed air for the support of the  
3 load.

4 "Street" means the same as highway.

5 "Street car" means a car other than a railroad train, for  
6 transporting persons or property and operated upon rails principally  
7 within a municipality.

8 "Stop," when required, means complete cessation from  
9 movement.

10 "Stopping or standing," when prohibited, means any cessation of  
11 movement of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when  
12 necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with  
13 the directions of a police officer or traffic control sign or signal.

14 "Suburban business or residential district" means that portion of  
15 highway and the territory contiguous thereto, where within any  
16 1,320 feet along that highway there is land in use for business or  
17 residential purposes and that land occupies more than 660 feet of  
18 frontage on one side or collectively more than 660 feet of frontage  
19 on both sides of that roadway.

20 "Through highway" means every highway or portion thereof at  
21 the entrances to which vehicular traffic from intersecting highways  
22 is required by law to stop before entering or crossing the same and  
23 when stop signs are erected as provided in this chapter.

24 "Trackless trolley" means every motor vehicle which is propelled  
25 by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not  
26 operated upon rails.

27 "Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles,  
28 street cars, and other conveyances either singly, or together, while  
29 using any highway for purposes of travel.

30 "Traffic control signal" means a device, whether manually,  
31 electrically, mechanically, or otherwise controlled, by which traffic  
32 is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

33 "Trailer" means every vehicle with or without motive power,  
34 other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property  
35 and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no  
36 part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

37 "Truck" means every motor vehicle designed, used, or  
38 maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

39 "Truck tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used  
40 primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to  
41 carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load  
42 so drawn.

43 "Van pooling" means seven or more persons commuting on a  
44 daily basis to and from work by means of a vehicle with a seating  
45 arrangement designed to carry seven to 15 adult passengers.

46 "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which a person or  
47 property is or may be transported upon a highway, excepting

1 devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary  
2 rails or tracks or motorized bicycles.

3 (cf: P.L.2016, c.35, s.1)

4

5 2. (New section) a. A low-speed electric bicycle, as defined in  
6 R.S.39:1-1, may be operated on the streets, highways, sidewalks,  
7 and bicycle paths of this State.

8 b. The operator of a low-speed electric bicycle shall not be  
9 required to register the low-speed electric bicycle, furnish proof of  
10 insurance, or have a driver's license.

11 c. All statutes, including the provisions of chapter 4 of Title 39  
12 of the Revised Statutes, rules, and regulations applicable to  
13 bicycles, as defined in section 1 of P.L.1991, c.465 (C.39:4-10.1),  
14 shall apply to low-speed electric bicycles.

15

16 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

#### STATEMENT

20

21 This bill expressly permits the operation of low-speed electric  
22 bicycles in this State. Under the bill, low-speed electric bicycles  
23 may be operated on streets, highways, sidewalks, and bicycle paths.  
24 An operator of a low-speed electric bicycle is not required to  
25 register the low-speed electric bicycle, furnish proof of insurance,  
26 or have a driver's license.

27 The bill further provides that all statutes, including the  
28 provisions of chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, rules,  
29 and regulations that are applicable to bicycles are to apply to low-  
30 speed electric bicycles.

31 The bill defines a low-speed electric bicycle as a two or three-  
32 wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of  
33 less than 750 watts, whose maximum speed on a paved level  
34 surface, when powered solely by a motor while operated by a  
35 person weighing 170 pounds, is less than 20 miles per hour.

36 The bill also clarifies that the definitions of a motor vehicle,  
37 motorcycle, motorized bicycle, and motorized scooter do not  
38 include a low-speed electric bicycle.