

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes that electric-assisted bicycles are by default allowed on all bike pathways and trails, including state trails managed by the Department of Natural Resources and paths created by local units of government like cities and park boards, unless the bicycle is not safe for use on that trail.

- 1 Bicycle use of trails.** Prevents prohibition of electric-assisted bicycles (unless there are issues with safe use) on any state trail (managed by the Department of Natural Resources) where bikes are allowed.
- 2 Authority of local government.** Prevents prohibition of electric-assisted bicycles (unless there are issues with safe use) on any trail under a Department of Natural Resources grant program on which bikes, or nonmotorized use more generally, are allowed.
- 3 Nonmotorized use trails.** Makes a conforming change to, in effect, treat electric-assisted bicycles as nonmotorized use.
- 4 Powers of political subdivision.** Prevents a county, city, town, park board, or other local unit of government from prohibiting electric-assisted bicycles (unless there are issues with safe use) on dedicated bicycle paths, bicycle lanes established on a roadway, roadways, and shoulders.
- 5 Electric-assisted bicycle.** Amends the definition of electric-assisted bicycle to clarify the vehicle type and include bicycles that are regulated by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. The change has the effect of treating all bicycles with attached motors (that also meet certain requirements) as electric-assisted bicycles regardless of which federal agency regulates the equipment and manufacture of the bicycle.
- 6 Other operation requirements and prohibitions.** Establishes that unless specifically prohibited, a person can operate an electric-assisted bicycle on a dedicated bicycle path, a bicycle lane established on a roadway, a signed bicycle route, and a state trail that permits other bicycles. Makes conforming changes.