

MASSACHUSETTS' ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



MASSACHUSETTS' ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » In Massachusetts, an electric bicycle is defined as a “motorized bicycle” as long as its maximum speed is 25mph. As motorized bicycles, electric bicycles are not subject to the same rules of the road as regular bicycles.
- » Electric bicycle riders must carry an operator’s license and are subject to registration requirements. Electric bicycles are not subject to insurance requirements.

- » Helmets are required, and there is a 16 year age minimum for electric bicycle use. Electric bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks or bike paths.

*The following Massachusetts laws are referenced: Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 90-1, ch. 90-1B through 90-1D.

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.

MASSACHUSETTS' ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » **LOCAL:** Consult your local land management agency.
- » **STATE:** The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) defines electric bicycles within the three class system. Class 1 electric bicycles are permitted on improved DCR trails of 8 feet in width or greater, in places where vehicular traffic is permitted and bicycles are not otherwise prohibited, and in bicycle lanes on DCR roadways.
- » **FEDERAL:** There is little federal land managed for recreation in Massachusetts. However, for reference, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails on federal lands.

CHECK OUT

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

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN MASSACHUSETTS

- » **Pittsfield State Forest**
Pittsfield | 39 miles
- » **October Mountain State Forest**
Lee | 69 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

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
- » Electric bicycle statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
- » eMTB management resources

