



City of Huntington Beach

2000 MAIN STREET

CALIFORNIA 92648

Tony Strickland
Mayor

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Dave Min
California State Senator, District 37
10th and O St Offices, Ste 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 381 (Min) Electric Bicycles: Study
City of Huntington Beach – Notice of Support

Dear Senator Min,

On behalf of the City of Huntington Beach, I write in support of your SB 381, which would direct the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to conduct a study on electric bicycles to inform efforts to improve the safety of riders and pedestrians. Specifically, this bill will look to guide research of key causes of injuries and fatalities from electric bicycle usage using data collected from various sources.

The City of Huntington Beach is a coastal community in Southern California of about 200,000. Micro mobility modes of transportation such as skateboards, bicycles, and electric bicycles are popular in the City as part of the City's coveted beach lifestyle. As such, the City has seen a drastic uptick in pedestrian and bicycle involved injuries largely due to the proliferation of electric bicycles. While the City supports new modes of transportation that reduce traffic congestion, improve vehicular flow, and improve air quality, yet public safety and quality of life measures need consideration. The first step toward addressing these concerns in a thoughtful way that maintains and encourages safe forms of transportation involves data collection and analysis. SB 381 will provide the missing link to inform common sense public safety measures to protect residents and promote clean transportation.

For these reasons, the City of Huntington Beach supports SB 381.

Sincerely,

Tony Strickland
Mayor
City of Huntington Beach

cc: Assembly Member Tri Ta
Senator Janet Nguyen

Introduced by Senator Min

February 9, 2023

An act to add and repeal Section 21214 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 381, as introduced, Min. Electric bicycles: study.

Existing law defines an electric bicycle to mean a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts, and subjects a person riding an electric bicycle to provisions of law governing the operation of a bicycle.

This bill would require the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to, on or before January 1, 2026, conduct a study on electric bicycles to inform efforts to improve the safety of riders and pedestrians, and to submit a report of the findings from the study to the Legislature. The bill would require the study to examine or compile, among other things, data on injuries, accidents, emergency room visits, and deaths related to bicycles and electronic bicycles and data on best practices for safety of regular bicycles versus electric bicycles.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Electric bicycles not only offer a solution to car dependency
- 4 and transport poverty, but also help reduce our carbon footprint.
- 5 As California moves away from its dependence on fossil fuels, we

1 will see a rise in zero emission modes of transportation, including,
2 but limited to, electric bicycles.

3 (b) While the uptake in usage of electric bicycles is necessary
4 to meet our climate goals, it is important to ensure rider and
5 pedestrian safety. Research shows that accidents with an electric
6 bicycle have more severe consequences than with a regular bicycle.
7 Head trauma is significantly higher, although a helmet is much
8 more frequently used. The main culprit behind these results,
9 according to the experts, is the much higher speed.

10 SEC. 2. Section 21214 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

11 21214. (a) On or before January 1, 2026, the Mineta
12 Transportation Institute at San Jose State University shall conduct
13 a study on electric bicycles to inform efforts to improve the safety
14 of riders and pedestrians, and submit a report of the findings from
15 the study to the Legislature. The study shall examine or compile
16 information, including, but not be limited to, all of the following:

17 (1) Data on injuries, accidents, emergency room visits, and
18 deaths related to bicycles and electronic bicycles.

19 (2) Data comparing the injury patterns between bicycles and
20 electric bicycles in California.

21 (3) Data on best practices for safety of regular bicycles versus
22 electric bicycles.

23 (4) Review of all laws in the code pertaining to electric bicycles.

24 (5) Recommended accessories, including, but not limited to,
25 headlights, speedometers, brakes, bells, reflectors, and helmets,
26 and how having these accessories help to provide safety.

27 (6) Data on the manufacturing of electric bicycles, including,
28 but not limited to, the market of electric bicycles, manufacturer
29 information, sales patterns, and the number of electric bicycles on
30 California roads, including the usage by city and the reasons behind
31 the usage.

32 (7) Data on other countries with high electric bicycles usage,
33 including a review of policy mechanisms those countries use to
34 regulate and promote the safe use of electric bicycles and what
35 California can learn from them.

36 (b) (1) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)
37 shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the
38 Government Code.

1 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this
2 section is repealed on January 1, 2030.

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