

Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee

May 8, 2026

Agenda Item 3b – 26-0555

Senate Bill 1167 (Blakespear): Electric Bicycle Safety

Subject:

Clarifies that e-bikes are devices that do not exceed 20 miles per hour (mph) (throttle) or 28 mph (pedal assist) and have motors of 750 watts or less. Devices exceeding these thresholds are not considered e-bikes and shall be regulated according to their speed, power, and safety risks.

Background:

At the direction of the State Legislature through Senate Bill 318 (Min, 2023), the Mineta Transportation Institute published a research brief in December 2025, *Exploring Electric Bicycle Safety Performance Data and Policy Options for California*, with recommended policy actions. The report highlights that “e-bike” is often used to describe a wide spectrum of devices, contributing to confusion and challenges in both regulation and safety analysis. SB 1167 seeks to implement a key recommendation from the report, specifically, to revise the California Vehicle Code to update electric bicycle classes and operating rules, including clarifying the legal status of two-wheeled, powered “bicycle-shaped devices” that do not fit into any device category in the California Vehicle Code.

In discussing the numerous e-bike bills introduced this year at the April Joint MTC-ABAG Legislation Committee, committee members agreed that regulating the more dangerous high-speed, high-powered devices had the most potential to mitigate safety risks while still advancing the region’s sustainable transportation goals.

Recommendation:

Support / Commission

Discussion:

SB 1167 addresses a key gap in current law by clarifying which electric two-wheeled devices qualify as e-bikes, particularly as higher-speed, higher-powered devices have become more prevalent in the marketplace. Market research firm Global Market Insights estimates that only 43 percent of devices sold in 2024 were low-speed, low-power class 1 e-bikes, and that devices with

motors above 750 watts are the fastest growing segment of the e-bike market¹. The bill establishes clear thresholds for power and speed, specifying that devices exceeding 750 watts or 20-mph throttle/28 mph pedal-assist limits do not qualify as e-bikes, and requiring manufacturers and sellers to provide disclosures regarding applicable licensing and registration requirements for these devices. It also establishes standard skyward-facing e-bike labeling guidelines so devices can be easily and properly identified. Lastly, the bill requires law enforcement incident reports to include identifying information from the e-bike label, or lack thereof, to improve the quality of e-bike data collection.

Among the e-bike bills introduced this session, SB 1167 takes a targeted approach by focusing on higher-risk and more dangerous devices without imposing new restrictions on low-speed, low-power class 1 e-bikes. The bill provides much needed regulatory clarity by ensuring higher-speed, higher-powered devices are appropriately classified and labeled, reducing confusion for consumers, retailers, and law enforcement. This approach strengthens safety and oversight, without limiting access to the e-bikes that support regional sustainability, mobility, and accessibility goals. From an operational perspective, the bill does not affect the class 1 e-bikes included in the BayWheels Bike Share fleet.

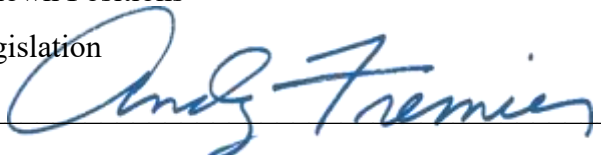
Staff will continue to monitor all e-bike bills under consideration this session and can provide further updates on other bills at your May Committee meeting.

Known Positions:

- See Attachment A.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: SB 1167 (Blakespear) Known Positions
- Attachment B: 2026 Electric Bicycle Legislation



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¹ Global Market Insights. (2025, July). US e-bike market size - by product, by battery, by motor, by propulsion, by ownership, by power output, by application, by sales channel, by price range, growth forecast, 2025 - 2034. Retrieved from [https:// www.gminsights.com/industry-analysis/us-e-bike-market](https://www.gminsights.com/industry-analysis/us-e-bike-market)