

Summary of California Active Transportation Laws



DEVICE	DEVICE		USER				BIKEWAY / ROADWAY ACCESS									
	PEDAL OPERATED	MAXIMUM MOTOR-ASSISTED SPEED (MPH)	MINIMUM AGE (YEARS)	DRIVER'S LICENSE	LICENSE PLATE	BICYCLE HELMET or DOT HELMET	CLASS I BIKEWAY/MULTI-USE SIDE PATH	CLASS I BIKEWAY/MULTI-USE PATH	CLASS II BIKEWAY BIKE LANE	CLASS III BIKEWAY BIKE ROUTE	CLASS IV SEPARATED BIKEWAY CYCLE TRACK	SIDE WALK	SHOULDER OF ROAD	ROADWAY TRAVEL LANE	FREEWAY SHOULDER	
DEVICE	BICYCLE	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	<18	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	SOME
	CLASS 1 E-BIKE	YES	20 PEDAL ASSIST	N/A	N/A	NO	<18	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	SOME
	CLASS 2 E-BIKE	YES OPTIONAL	20 THROTTLE	N/A	N/A	NO	<18	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	SOME
	CLASS 3 E-BIKE	YES	28 PEDAL ASSIST	16	N/A	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	SOME
	HOVERBOARD	NO	20 15 MPH LIMIT	16	N/A	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	SOME	YES	SOME	SOME	SOME	NO
	E-SCOOTER	NO	15 THROTTLE	16	YES or LEARNER PERMIT	NO	<18	YES	YES	YES	SOME	YES	NO	SOME	SOME	NO
VEHICLE	MOTORIZED BICYCLE	SOME OPTIONAL	30 THROTTLE	16	YES M1 or M2	YES	YES DOT	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
	MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLE	NO	>30 THROTTLE	16	YES M2	YES	YES DOT	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO

* Local Ordinances can be passed to prohibit Bicycle riding on side walks, prohibit E-bike use on paths, prohibit Hoverboards from side walks & bikeways, or raise the street speed restriction for e-Scooters up to 35mph streets. Some freeway segments do not prohibit Bicycles when no other route is available. An E-Bike with over 750 watts is a Motorized Bicycle. An E-Bike that can exceed 20 MPH by throttle must be registered as a Motor Driven Cycle OR is not legal for use on public roads; Pocket Bikes, Mini Bikes, Motorized Skate Boards are illegal on public roads, paths, sidewalks & trails. Only allowed on private property. Adapted from People for Bikes E-Bike chart. Reference: <https://www.chp.ca.gov/programs-services/programs/california-motorcyclist-safety/motorcycles-and-similar-vehicles>