State of Wisconsin



2019 Assembly Bill 132

Date of enactment: **November 20, 2019**
Date of publication*: **November 21, 2019**

2019 WISCONSIN ACT 34

AN ACT *to repeal* 340.01 (30) (b); *to consolidate, renumber and amend* 340.01 (30) (intro.) and (a); *to amend* 23.335 (1) (q), 70.111 (1), 194.01 (7), 340.01 (29m) (bm), 340.01 (35), 340.01 (74p) (c), 341.05 (23), 346.02 (4) (title) and 346.02 (4) (a); and *to create* 340.01 (15ph), 346.806, 347.02 (1) (em), 347.489 (3m) and 349.18 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** electric bicycles and providing a penalty.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 23.335 (1) (q) of the statutes is amended to read:

23.335 **(1)** (q) "Off–highway motorcycle" means a 2–wheeled motor vehicle that is straddled by the operator, that is equipped with handlebars, and that is designed for use off a highway, regardless of whether it is also designed for use on a highway. "Off–highway motorcycle" does not include an electric bicycle, as defined under s. 340.01 (15ph).

SECTION 2. 70.111 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

70.111 **(1)** JEWELRY, HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS, AND APPAREL. Personal ornaments and jewelry, family portraits, private libraries, musical instruments other than pianos, radio equipment, household furniture, equipment and furnishings, apparel, motor bicycles, electric bicycles, bicycles, and firearms if such items are kept for personal use by the owner and pianos if they are located in a residence.

SECTION 3. 194.01 (7) of the statutes, as affected by 2019 Wisconsin Act 11, is amended to read:

194.01 **(7)** "Motor vehicle" means any automobile, truck, trailer, semitrailer, tractor, motor bus, or any self–propelled or motor driven vehicle, except a motorcycle, moped, motor bicycle, electric bicycle, electric scooter, electric personal assistive mobility device, personal delivery device, or vehicle operated on rails.

SECTION 4. 340.01 (15ph) of the statutes is created to read:

340.01 **(15ph)** "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and an electric motor of 750 watts or less and that meets the requirements of any of the following classifications:

(a) Class 1 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

(b) Class 2 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle that may be powered solely by the motor and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

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* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

(c) Class 3 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

SECTION 5. 340.01 (29m) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

340.01 **(29m)** (bm) "Moped" does not include a motor bicycle or electric bicycle.

SECTION 6. 340.01 (30) (intro.) and (a) of the statutes are consolidated, renumbered 340.01 (30) and amended to read:

340.01 **(30)** "Motor bicycle" means ~~any of the following: (a) A~~ a bicycle to which a power unit that is not an integral part of the vehicle has been added to permit the vehicle to travel at a speed of not more than 30 miles per hour with a 150–pound rider on a dry, level, hard surface with no wind and having a seat for the operator. "Motor bicycle" does not include an electric bicycle.

SECTION 7. 340.01 (30) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 8. 340.01 (35) of the statutes, as affected by 2019 Wisconsin Act 11, is amended to read:

340.01 **(35)** "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle, including a combination of 2 or more vehicles or an articulated vehicle, which is self–propelled, except a vehicle operated exclusively on a rail. "Motor vehicle" includes, without limitation, a commercial motor vehicle or a vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not operated on rails. A snowmobile, an all–terrain vehicle, a utility terrain vehicle, an electric scooter, and an electric personal assistive mobility device shall be considered motor vehicles only for purposes made specifically applicable by statute. "Motor vehicle" does not include an electric bicycle.

SECTION 9. 340.01 (74p) (c) of the statutes, as affected by 2019 Wisconsin Act 11, is amended to read:

340.01 **(74p)** (c) An operator of a moped, electric scooter, electric bicycle, or motor bicycle.

SECTION 10. 341.05 (23) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.05 **(23)** The vehicle is a motor bicycle, electric bicycle, or bicycle, except as provided in s. 349.18.

SECTION 11. 346.02 (4) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

346.02 **(4)** (title) APPLICABILITY TO PERSONS RIDING BICYCLES, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, AND MOTOR BICYCLES.

SECTION 12. 346.02 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

346.02 **(4)** (a) Subject to the special provisions applicable to bicycles, every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway or shoulder of a highway is granted all the rights and is subject to all the duties ~~which~~ that this chapter grants or applies to the operator of a vehicle, except those provisions ~~which~~ that by their express terms apply only to motor vehicles or ~~which~~ that by their very nature would have no application to bicycles. For purposes of this chapter, provisions ~~which~~ that apply to bicycles also apply to electric bicycles and motor bicycles, except as otherwise expressly provided.

SECTION 13. 346.806 of the statutes is created to read:

346.806 Special rules applicable to electric bicycles. (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided, an electric bicycle and an operator of an electric bicycle shall be afforded all the same rights and privileges, and be subject to the same duties, provided in chs. 340 to 351 as a bicycle or an operator of a bicycle. An electric bicycle shall be considered a vehicle to the same extent as a bicycle.

(2) A person operating an electric bicycle is not subject to the provisions under ch. 341, 342, 343, or 344 relating to financial responsibility, operator's licenses, registration, or certificates of title.

(3) (a) A person may ride, with the power unit in operation, an electric bicycle upon a bikeway, as defined under s. 84.60 (1) (a), under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources, subject to any restrictions specified in a rule promulgated by the department of natural resources under s. 349.18 (4) (b), or under the jurisdiction of a municipality or county, subject to any restrictions specified in an ordinance enacted under s. 349.18 (4) (a).

(b) A person may ride, with the power unit in operation, an electric bicycle upon a bikeway, as defined under s. 84.60 (1) (a), under the jurisdiction of the department, subject to any restrictions specified in a rule promulgated by the department.

(4) No person under the age of 16 years may operate a class 3 electric bicycle. A person under the age of 16 years may ride as a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.

SECTION 14. 347.02 (1) (em) of the statutes is created to read:

347.02 **(1)** (em) Electric bicycles.

SECTION 15. 347.489 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:

347.489 **(3m)** (a) 1. After January 1, 2018, a manufacturer or distributor of electric bicycles shall permanently affix to the electric bicycle a label containing all of the following information in Arial font of a minimum size of 9 point:

a. The classification number of the electric bicycle.

b. The speed at which the motor will cease to provide assistance or power.

c. The wattage of the motor equipped to the electric bicycle.

2. If a person modifies an electric bicycle so as to change the classification of the electric bicycle, the person shall prepare and affix to the electric bicycle a revised label satisfying the requirements of subd. 1.

(b) An electric bicycle shall meet the requirements of 16 CFR Part 1512, as if the electric bicycle were a bicycle as defined under 16 CFR 1512.2 (a).

(c) An electric bicycle shall operate so that the motor ceases to provide assistance or power when the brakes are applied or the motor ceases to provide assistance or power when the rider stops pedaling.

(d) No person may operate a class 3 electric bicycle unless the electric bicycle is equipped with a speedometer that with reasonable accuracy registers the speed of the electric bicycle in miles per hour.

SECTION 16. 349.18 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

349.18 **(4)** (a) The governing body of a municipality or county may by ordinance prohibit the operation, with the power unit in operation, of electric bicycles on bikeways, as defined under s. 84.60 (1) (a), under its jurisdiction.

(b) The department of natural resources may promulgate rules prohibiting the operation, with the power unit in operation, of electric bicycles on bikeways, as defined under s. 84.60 (1) (a), under its jurisdiction.

84.60 Bikeways.

(1) In this section:

(a) "Bikeway" means a public path, trail, lane or other way, including structures, traffic control devices and related support facilities and parking areas, designated for use by bicycles, electric scooters, electric personal assistive mobility devices, and other vehicles propelled by human power. The term also includes "bicycle lane" as defined in s. 340.01 (5e) and "bicycle way" as defined in s. 340.01 (5s).

(b) "Highway" means any state trunk highway, national parkway, expressway, interstate highway or freeway.

(2) The department may establish a bikeway separately or in conjunction with any existing highway.

(3) Bikeways established under this section shall be considered highways for the purposes of ss. 84.06, 84.07 and 84.09.

History: 1977 c. 29; 2001 a. 90; 2019 a. 11.

2023-24 Wisconsin Statutes updated through 2025 Wis. Act 170 and through all Supreme Court Orders and Controlled Substances Board Orders filed before and in effect on May 22, 2026. Published and certified under s. 35.18. Changes effective after May 22, 2026, are designated by NOTES. (Published 5-22-26)

SUBCHAPTER XII

BICYCLES, ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES, PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES, AND PLAY VEHICLES

346.77 Responsibility of parent or guardian for violation of bicycle and play vehicle regulations. No parent or guardian of any child shall authorize or knowingly permit such child to violate any of the provisions of ss. 346.78 to 346.804 and 347.489.

History: 1983 a. 243 s. 66; 2001 a. 90.

346.78 Play vehicles not to be used on roadway. No person riding upon any play vehicle may attach the same or himself or herself to any vehicle upon a roadway or go upon any roadway except while crossing a roadway at a crosswalk.

History: 1983 a. 243.

346.79 Special rules applicable to bicycles. Whenever a bicycle is operated upon a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle way the following rules apply:

(1) A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(2)

(a) Except as provided in par. (b), no bicycle may be used to carry or transport more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed.

(b) In addition to the operator, a bicycle otherwise designed to carry only the operator may be used to carry or transport a child seated in an auxiliary child's seat or trailer designed for attachment to a bicycle if the seat or trailer is securely attached to the bicycle according to the directions of the manufacturer of the seat or trailer.

(3) No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

(4) No person riding a bicycle shall attach himself or herself or his or her bicycle to any vehicle upon a roadway.

(5) No person may ride a moped or motor bicycle with the power unit in operation upon a bicycle way.

History: 1973 c. 182; 1977 c. 288; 1983 a. 243; 1985 a. 298; 1991 a. 316.

Sub. (2) is violated when two persons ride on a single bicycle designed for one person to which an additional seat, but no footrests or handgrips, has been added. 61 Atty. Gen. 360.

346.80 Riding bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device on roadway.

(1) In this section, "substandard width lane" means a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device and a motor vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

(2)

(a) Any person operating a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand edge or curb of the unobstructed traveled roadway, including operators who are riding 2 or more abreast where permitted under sub. (3), except:

1. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

2. When preparing for a left turn or U-turn at an intersection or a left turn into a private road or driveway.

3. When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to ride along the right-hand edge or curb.

(b) Notwithstanding par. (a), any person operating a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device upon a one-way highway having 2 or more lanes available for traffic may ride as near the left-hand edge or curb of the roadway as practicable.

(c) Any person operating a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing or parked vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction and, when passing a standing or parked vehicle that is a school bus that is not displaying flashing red warning lights as provided in s. 346.48 (1) or a motor bus, shall allow a minimum of 3 feet between the bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device and the vehicle.

(3)

(a) Persons riding bicycles, electric scooters, or electric personal assistive mobility devices upon a roadway may ride 2 abreast if such operation does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. Bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device operators riding 2 abreast on a 2-lane or more roadway shall ride within a single lane.

(b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway may not ride more than 2 abreast except upon any path, trail, lane or other way set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, electric scooters, and electric personal assistive mobility devices.

(4) No person may operate a bicycle, electric scooter, electric personal assistive mobility device, or moped upon a roadway where a sign is erected indicating that bicycle, electric scooter, electric personal assistive mobility device, or moped riding is prohibited.

(5) Except as provided in ss. 346.23, 346.24, 346.37, and 346.38, every rider of a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device shall, upon entering on a highway, yield, and every personal delivery device operator shall ensure that the personal delivery device, upon entering on a highway, yield the right-of-way to motor vehicles.

History: 1973 c. 182; 1977 c. 208, 288; 1979 c. 197; 1985 a. 69; 1995 a. 138; 2001 a. 90; 2009 a. 22, 97; 2017 a. 13; 2019 a. 11.

346.803 Riding bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device on bicycle way.

(1) Every person operating a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device upon a bicycle way shall:

(a) Exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device rider or a pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.

(b) Obey each traffic signal or sign facing a roadway which runs parallel and adjacent to a bicycle way.

(2) Every person operating a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device upon a bicycle way open to 2-way traffic shall ride on the right side of the bicycle way.

(3) Every operator of a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device entering a bicycle way shall yield the right-of-way to all bicycles and pedestrians in the bicycle way.

(4) Except as provided in ss. 349.236 (1) (bm) and 349.237, a person may operate an electric personal assistive mobility device, or an electric scooter at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour, upon any bicycle path.

History: 1973 c. 182; 2001 a. 90; 2019 a. 11.

346.804 Riding bicycle on sidewalk. When local authorities under s. 346.94 (1) permit bicycles on the sidewalk, every person operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device rider or a pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.

History: 1973 c. 182; 2001 a. 90; 2019 a. 11.

346.805 Riding electric scooter or electric personal assistive mobility device on sidewalk. Except as provided in ss. 346.94 (18) (a) 2. and (18s), 349.236 (1) (b), and 349.237, a person may operate an electric scooter or an electric personal assistive mobility device upon any sidewalk. Every person operating an electric scooter or an electric personal assistive mobility device upon a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or bicyclist and shall exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle or other electric scooter or electric personal assistive mobility device or a pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.

History: 2019 a. 11.

346.806 Special rules applicable to electric bicycles.

(1) Except as otherwise expressly provided, an electric bicycle and an operator of an electric bicycle shall be afforded all the same rights and privileges, and be subject to the same duties, provided in chs. 340 to 351 as a bicycle or an operator of a bicycle. An electric bicycle shall be considered a vehicle to the same extent as a bicycle.

(2) A person operating an electric bicycle is not subject to the provisions under ch. 341, 342, 343, or 344 relating to financial responsibility, operator's licenses, registration, or certificates of title.

(3)

(a) A person may ride, with the power unit in operation, an electric bicycle upon a bikeway, as defined under s. 84.60 (1) (a), under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources, subject to any restrictions specified in a rule promulgated by the department of natural resources under s. 349.18 (4) (b), or under the jurisdiction of a municipality or county, subject to any restrictions specified in an ordinance enacted under s. 349.18 (4) (a).

(b) A person may ride, with the power unit in operation, an electric bicycle upon a bikeway, as defined under s. 84.60 (1) (a), under the jurisdiction of the department, subject to any restrictions specified in a rule promulgated by the department.

(4) No person under the age of 16 years may operate a class 3 electric bicycle. A person under the age of 16 years may ride as a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.

History: 2019 a. 34.

346.807 Operating personal delivery device on sidewalk.

(1) Except as provided in s. 346.94 (18m) (a) 2. and 349.236 (1) (b), a personal delivery device may be operated upon any sidewalk or crosswalk.

(2) Every personal delivery device operator shall ensure that the operation of the personal delivery device upon a sidewalk or crosswalk satisfies all of the following:

(a) The personal delivery device operator shall control or monitor the navigation and operation of the device.

(b) The device may not go upon any roadway except while crossing a roadway at a crosswalk.

(c) The device shall be operated with due care.

(d) The device shall comply with each traffic signal and sign.

(e) The speed of the device may not exceed 10 miles per hour.

(f) The device shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian.

History: 2001 a. 90; 2017 a. 13.

346.82 Penalty for violating sections 346.77 to 346.807.

(1) Any person violating ss. 346.77, 346.79 (1) to (3), or 346.80 to 346.807 may be required to forfeit not more than $20.

(2) Any person violating s. 346.78 or 346.79 (4) may be required to forfeit not less than $10 nor more than $20 for the first offense and not less than $25 nor more than $50 for the 2nd or subsequent conviction within a year.

History: 1971 c. 278; 1973 c. 182; 1983 a. 243; 2001 a. 90; 2003 a. 321; 2017 a. 13.

2023-24 Wisconsin Statutes updated through 2025 Wis. Act 170 and through all Supreme Court Orders and Controlled Substances Board Orders filed before and in effect on May 22, 2026. Published and certified under s. 35.18. Changes effective after May 22, 2026, are designated by NOTES. (Published 5-22-26)

Chapter 163. Bicycles

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Allouez as Ch. 24 of the Village Code. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 163-1. Definitions.

[Amended 2-7-2017 by Ord. No. 2017-02; 6-5-2018 by Ord. No. 2018-07]

As used in this chapter, the following shall have the meaning indicated:

BICYCLE

Every vehicle propelled by feet or hands acting upon pedals or cranks and having wheels any two of which are not less than 14 inches in diameter.

§ 163-2. Registration.

[Amended 6-5-2018 by Ord. No. 2018-07]

A. Registration of bicycles within the Village of Allouez is free and optional. Registering a bicycle is the best way for it to be returned to its owner if it is lost or stolen.

B. Application for registration shall be made by the owner on forms provided by the Village. Said application shall contain the name, age, address of the owner, and/or parent name, a description of the bicycle, and the serial number.

C. (Reserved)

D. Registration stickers are issued by the Village. No bicycle shall be considered registered until a registration sticker is affixed to the frame of such bicycle.

§ 163-3. Bicycle operation.

A. Lights. Every bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp firmly attached to the front of such bicycle, exhibiting a white light to the front, visible at a distance of at least 500 feet, and with a red reflector at least two inches in diameter on the rear of such bicycle, visible at a distance of at least 500 feet. A lamp emitting a red light visible at such distance may also be used.

B. Brakes. Every bicycle shall be equipped with adequate brakes as required by law.

C. Hitching rides. Any person riding upon a bicycle shall not cling or attach himself or his bicycle to any moving vehicle.

D. Carrying passengers. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.

E. Inspection. Checks of bicycles may be made by duly authorized Village of Allouez or Brown County officers for the purpose of handling, control, safe operation and mechanical condition.

F. Endangering safety. No rider of a bicycle shall ride a bicycle in a reckless or hazardous manner, or in any manner which could be deemed to cause unnecessary risk of injury to the rider or pedestrians.

G. Riding on right side. The rider of a bicycle shall ride as near as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except when passing another vehicle or in making a left-hand turn, and when riding in groups shall ride in single file. On a one-way roadway the rider may ride as near as practicable to either the right- or left-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

H. Parking. No bicycle shall be parked upon any sidewalk area or upon any roadway in such a manner as to interfere with free passage of the public.

I. Traffic signs. A rider of a bicycle shall stop for official stop signs and automatic traffic signals.

J. On sidewalks. Except for the sidewalks adjacent to Webster Avenue, the use of any sidewalk within the Village limits for the riding or propelling of any bicycle is prohibited, except that bicycles may be propelled upon the sidewalks on unpaved streets. Any person operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle rider or pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.

K. Unsafe bicycles. Bicycles which are not mechanically safe shall not be operated on the streets or highways of the Village of Allouez, and license suspension shall be made automatically.

L. Parents' responsibility. The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this section.

M. Carrying articles. No rider of a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

N. State rules. The rider of a bicycle shall obey all provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes relating thereto.

O. Headphones. No bicycle operator may wear headphones or earphones covering both ears while operating a bicycle.

§ 163-4. Violations and penalties.

Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter shall be punished according to the discretion of the Municipal Judge by any or all of the following methods:

A. By suspension of the registration tag of the violator's bicycle, for first offense, 30 days, second offense, 60 days, and third offense, 90 days.

B. By impounding the violator's bicycle for a period not exceeding 90 days.

C. For flagrant or habitual violations, by a forfeiture of not less than $10 nor more than $500, and in default of payment thereof by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days.[1]

[1] *Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. **1**, General Provisions, Art. **II**).*

D. Repeat violators may be required to attend safety lectures at prescribed locations. These lectures shall be handled by an officer of the Brown County Sheriff's Department designated for this purpose.[2]

[2] *Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. **1**, General Provisions, Art. **II**).*

2026 LEGAL GUIDE

Wisconsin E-Bike Laws 2026: 16+ Class 3, Sidewalk & 15 mph Trails

Published: January 30, 2024 ☑ Verified: February 14, 2026 7 min read

No DMV	3-Class	16+	15 mph
LICENSE/REG	STATEWIDE	CLASS 3 OPERATOR	MANY STATE TRAILS

Wisconsin recognizes the three-class e-bike system and treats e-bikes like bicycles for most rules—no license, registration, or insurance. Two standouts: **Class 3 riders must be 16+**, and **sidewalk riding depends on local ordinance** (many cities restrict it). On state-managed bicycle touring trails, **Class 1 and 3 are allowed with a 15 mph cap**, while local governments can set their own rules for city paths and parks.

Quick Answer: Wisconsin E-Bike Laws (2026)

Definition & classes: Wisconsin defines Class 1–3 e-bikes (≤750W) in Wis. Stat. §340.01(15ph).

License/registration: Not required; e-bikes are afforded bicycle-like rights/duties (§346.806(1)–(2)).

Age & speedometer (Class 3): Operators must be **16+** and the bike must have a **speedometer** (§346.806(4); §347.489).

Sidewalks: Allowed only where a *local ordinance* permits bicycling on sidewalks; many cities prohibit it (see WisDOT guidance and city codes linked below).

Paths & trails: Riding with power on is allowed on "bikeways" subject to local/agency restrictions (§346.806(3)). On **Wisconsin State Park System bicycle touring trails, Class 1 & 3** are allowed with a **15 mph speed limit**; **Class 2 is not permitted** (see DNR list).

> **Labeling:** New e-bikes sold in WI must carry a permanent label showing class, top assisted speed, and motor wattage (§347.489).

Understanding Wisconsin E-Bike Classes

Class 1

Pedal-Assist

20 mph max assist
≤ 750W motor
No throttle
Shared paths generally allowed (locals may restrict)

Class 2

Throttle-Capable

20 mph max throttle/assist
≤ 750W motor
Throttle allowed
Shared paths generally allowed (locals may restrict)

Class 3

Speed Pedelec

28 mph max assist
≤ 750W motor
Pedal-assist only; **speedometer required**
16+ operator

See definitions in §340.01(15ph) and operation rules in §346.806; equipment/labeling in §347.489.

Wisconsin E-Bike Requirements by Class

Electric bicycle requirements (see §340.01(15ph), §346.806, §347.489)

Requirement	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Driver's license / registration / insurance	**Not required**	**Not required**	**Not required**
Minimum age	None statewide	None statewide	**16+ operator**
Helmet	No statewide rule (local)	No statewide rule (local)	No statewide rule (local)
Speedometer	Not required	Not required	**Required**
Roads & bike lanes	**Allowed**	**Allowed**	**Allowed**

Requirement	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Shared-use paths (general)	**Allowed (locals may restrict)**	**Allowed (locals may restrict)**	**Allowed (locals may restrict)**
State Park bicycle touring trails	**Allowed (15 mph cap)**	**Not allowed**	**Allowed (15 mph cap)**
Sidewalks	Local rules (many cities prohibit)	Local rules (many cities prohibit)	Local rules (many cities prohibit)
Permanent class label	Required on new e-bikes sold in WI (§347.489)		

Note: The Wisconsin DNR allows **Class 1 and Class 3 pedal-assist** on many State Park System **bicycle touring trails** with a **15 mph** limit. **Class 2 (throttle) is not permitted**. See the DNR trail list for specifics: DNR bicycle trails.

Key Wisconsin Regulations & Local Nuances

Equipment & Labeling

- **Labeling (new sales):** Permanent label stating class, top assisted speed, and motor wattage is required (§347.489).
- **Class 3:** Must have a **speedometer** and the operator must be **16+** — §347.489; §346.806(4).
- **No statewide helmet mandate:** Check city/county rules.

Where You Can Ride

- **Bikeways (paths/lanes):** Riding with power engaged is allowed, but **local governments or DNR may restrict** specific facilities — §346.806(3); §84.60.
- **Sidewalks: Local ordinance controls.** Many cities ban adult riding on sidewalks; some allow in residential areas—see examples below and WisDOT guidance.
- **State Park trails:** On many bicycle touring trails, **Class 1 & 3** are allowed with a **15 mph limit** (Class 2 not permitted); other trails may prohibit e-bikes — DNR bicycle trails.

> ### Local Riding Rules: Milwaukee, Madison & Wausau
>
> - **Milwaukee: Sidewalk riding prohibited** for bicycles/e-scooters in most areas (limited exceptions) — City Code ch. 102.

- **Madison: Sidewalks allowed** except where buildings abut the sidewalk (commercial districts); pedestrians have right-of-way — City TE: Riding on Sidewalks.
- **Wausau (parks): Class 1 allowed;** Class 2 & 3 **not allowed** on park trails; **15 mph** in all city parks — Wausau PD / local news.

Rebates & Incentives (Wisconsin)

- No statewide or major utility e-bike rebates identified in 2026. Check your city/utility for pilots or local programs.

Helmet & Safety Notes

Helmet Laws

- **No statewide helmet requirement** for e-bikes; local jurisdictions may set their own rules. When in doubt, wear one.

Night Equipment (recommended)

- White front light; red rear light/reflector; reflective gear for side visibility.

Important Legal Compliance

Do not alter or remove your e-bike's class label and ensure Class 3 bikes have a working speedometer (§347.489). Follow posted rules on sidewalks, city paths, and State Trails (DNR **15 mph** on many bicycle touring trails; **Class 2 not permitted**).

Wisconsin E-Bike Laws FAQ

Do I need a license, registration, or insurance for an e-bike in Wisconsin?

What is the minimum age to operate a Class 3 e-bike?

Can I ride an e-bike on sidewalks in Wisconsin?

Are e-bikes allowed on Wisconsin State Park System trails?

Do I need a special label on my e-bike in Wisconsin? +

Legal References & Resources

- **Statutes & 3-class framework:** Wis. Stat. §340.01(15ph) • §346.806 (special rules for e-bikes) • §347.489 (labeling & speedometer) • 2019 Act 34
- **Agencies & guidance:** Wisconsin DNR — Bicycle trails (15 mph & trail list) • WisDOT — Bicycle rules
- **Local examples:** Milwaukee — Sidewalk prohibition • Madison — Sidewalk rules • Wausau — Park/Trail limits

Ride Wisconsin with Confidence

Know your class, follow posted rules, and check local ordinances where you ride.

E-Bike Class Guide Compare State Laws

Last Updated: February 14, 2026 • Always verify current regulations with local authorities and land managers before riding.



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