



SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

E-BIKE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES & ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This bulletin provides community leaders and key local government stakeholders with resource considerations related to the significant statutory changes affecting “e-bikes” now defined as low-speed electric bicycles (LSEB), motorized bicycles (MB), and low-speed electric scooters (LSES) under L. 2025, c. 285 (S4834/A6235), signed into law on January 19, 2026, with the enforcement period beginning on July 20, 2026.

In light of these legislative changes, local leaders and government stakeholders must collaborate with other key public officials and community partners, including the Chief of Police, public works officials, risk managers, local government professionals, recreation department leaders, local schools, community organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

The legislative changes will likely result in increased community requests for police enforcement, modifications to local ordinances, roadway and highway design considerations, public pathway engineering modifications, public education efforts, and related risk mitigation strategies. Local leaders should begin planning now by initiating collaborative discussions with these stakeholders, reviewing current ordinances and infrastructure needs, and identifying practical steps to reduce foreseeable risks. If a serious injury or tragedy involving an e-bike rider occurs, residents will likely demand action; therefore, it is imperative that local officials demonstrate they have exercised due diligence in identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the risks associated with e-bike use in their communities.

Essential Collaboration with Local Law Enforcement Considerations

- Discuss this matter with the local Chief of Police, and review the MSI Law Enforcement Bulletin, *E-Bikes – Essential Policy and Enforcement Considerations*, available in [MSI Law Enforcement Bulletins](#).
- Although recent legislative changes have expanded the regulatory framework for “e-bikes,” local leaders should recognize that police officers may face practical and legal limitations when conducting enforcement operations, particularly when attempting to stop or pursue individuals operating LSEBs, MBs, or LSES. These limitations may be further heightened when an officer is operating on foot, on a police bicycle, or in a police vehicle.
- Local government leaders should be aware of these law enforcement limitations so they can properly inform constituents whom they may speak with.
- Discuss with the Chief of Police how local government can support public awareness efforts regarding the new legislation, reinforce the community's role in compliance, and promote shared responsibility for maintaining public safety.

Other Stakeholder Collaboration Considerations

- Consult the recreation department, public works, and local government-supported fire, EMS, and OEM organizations to determine whether they use a LESB or an MB. Ensure that a comprehensive inventory of any LSEB and MB equipment is completed. Determine the appropriate classification of each LSEB or MB under the new legislation and ensure that any required registration placards are properly affixed.
- Ensure that any LSEB and MB used by the agency are adequately documented as vehicles in the insurance schedules. Consult with your insurance Risk Management Consultant and Municipal Attorney.
- Ensure that an appropriate training program is in place and completed by any employee before they are permitted to operate a LSEB or MB.
- Determine whether changes are necessary regarding how any LSEB and MB utilized by police, parks and recreation, Fire/EMS/OEM, or other personnel will be stowed. There are many considerations, such as limiting damage, protecting against theft, and mitigating battery-related risks. Read the Safety Director Bulletin, *Lithium-Ion Batteries: Hazards and Best Practices*, available in [MSI Bulletins](#).
- Ensure employees, especially those who regularly work in parks or other open spaces, are aware of the legislation. A [Local Government E-Bike Resource Document](#) is available to assist local governments in developing an informational resource page for employees. Educating employees is essential to help them avoid erroneously calling the police on issues that may not be violations.
- Discuss with the Municipal Attorney and other key stakeholders concerning any changes or modifications to local ordinances or park and recreation area rules and regulations. Ensure that New Jersey State Statutes or local ordinances support any enforcement action expected to be initiated by local law enforcement. This consideration is likely significant for bike paths, walking paths, open spaces, boardwalks, promenades, and similar areas.
- Meet with local school officials and discuss how they can assist in promoting the proper use of an LSEB, MB, and LSES by students and staff.
- Engage the local government engineer, planner, planning board representatives, and other key stakeholders to identify appropriate short- and long-term planning, engineering, and infrastructure considerations related to the increasing prevalence of all types of “e-bikes.”