



**BIKE-WALK
ALLIANCE**
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

January 19, 2026

The Honorable Thomas Walsh, Chair
House Transportation Committee
GP Room 234
1 Granite Place
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: HB1682-FN – AN ACT relative to registration and road access for low-capacity and low-weight battery-operated vehicles

Dear Representative Walsh:

Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire (BWANH) is an education and advocacy organization that aims to make New Hampshire a safer place for people on foot, people on bikes, and other vulnerable road users. The subject bill would assess registration fees and surcharges for various classes of electric vehicles, which potentially include e-bikes. **We oppose the bill as introduced.**

Electric bikes, or e-bikes, have brought the benefits of bicycling to a broader range of people in recent years. More people, such as those who were not previously cycling enthusiasts, plus older cyclists, and those for whom e-bikes are an important means of transportation, can now enjoy the health and economic benefits of getting around on a bike. And studies have shown that e-bike riders typically exercise more than those who ride conventional bikes. This is because e-bike riders tend to ride longer distances and more frequently.

Since 2020, RSA 265:144-a has recognized three classes of e-bikes, following the classifications established by the federal Consumer Products Safety Commission. The fastest of these, Class 3, can go up to 28 mph, but only with pedaling in addition to electric assistance. Class 3 e-bikes are generally not allowed on bike paths or multi-use paths, with a few exceptions. The current statute requires Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes to be labelled as such by the manufacturer.

We believe the existing statute treats e-bikes appropriately and that imposing registration requirements and/or fees on them would discourage their use, consequently harm public health, make New Hampshire a less bike-friendly state (harming our tourist economy) and potentially pose a hardship for those who rely on those types of e-bikes for transportation – particularly the economically disadvantaged. BWANH is opposed to the inclusion of Class 1, 2, or 3 e-bikes among the types of vehicles subject to this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gourgue
Executive Director

Paul Susca
Board President

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