

ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BIKES) IN KEENE

Quick Reference Guide



KNOW YOUR E-BIKE CLASS

Class	Motor Assistance	Throttle	Max Speed	Other Requirements
Class 1	Pedal-assist only (<750W)	No throttle	20 mph	Permanent label; all ages
Class 2	Pedal-assist or throttle (<750W)	Throttle Power	20 mph	Permanent label; all ages
Class 3	Pedal-assist only (<750W)	No Throttle	28 mph	Speedometer; Age 16+ only

KNOW THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Traffic Laws (NH RSA 265:143)

- **Same Duties as Vehicles:** Obey all traffic lights, stop signs, and lane rules
- **Yield to Pedestrians:** always yield in crosswalks and shared multi-use trails
- **Direction:** Never ride against traffic on 1-way roads
- **Lane Position:** Keep right, move left to avoid hazards or to pass safely or to make left turns

Safety Requirements

- **Helmets:** Required by law for riders under 16
- **Night Gear:** NH law requires reflective apparel from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise plus headlight & rear reflector/light
- **Control:** Ride at speeds safe for conditions

KNOW WHERE YOU CAN AND CANNOT RIDE

Public Roads & Streets

- **ALLOWED:** Classes 1, 2, & 3 on all roadways where standard bikes are permitted
- **Ride on the right,** traveling with traffic flow

Sidewalks

- **PROHIBITED IN DOWNTOWN:** Do not ride on sidewalks in downtown Keene (restricted by City Ordinance).
- Use roadways or designated multi-use paths

Multi-Use Paths & Rail Trails

- **Class 1 & 2:** Permitted unless posted otherwise
- **Class 3:** Prohibited unless path is along a highway/roadway or explicitly authorized
- **Dirt Trails:** Follow posted non-motorized rules

**Ride at Safe Speeds • Obey Traffic Signs • Wear a Helmet
Ride With Traffic • Yield to Pedestrians • Use Reflective Apparel**

NH State Statutes: RSA 259:27-a (Definitions) • RSA 265:144-a (E-Bike Rules) • RSA 265:143 (Bicycle Rules)

City of Keene • www.KeeneNH.gov

E-BIKE vs. OHRV

Quick Reference Guide



Use of e-bikes and OHRV's (including electric dirt bikes) is increasing, especially among juvenile riders. The different classifications are subject to different laws in New Hampshire. This is important.

The distinction between an electric bicycle and an OHRV (Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle) is based primarily on pedals, motor power, and speed capability. Determine how your vehicle is classified under New Hampshire law, and ensure it is being operated safely and legally.

IS IT AN E-BIKE OR AN OHRV?



E-Bike

A vehicle is an electric bicycle only if it meets **ALL** of the following:

- Has fully operable pedals.
- Electric motor rated less than 750 watts.
- Fits one of the three statutory classes:

Class 1:	Pedal-assist only; motor assistance stops at 20 mph.
Class 2:	Throttle permitted; motor assistance stops at 20 mph.
Class 3:	Pedal-assist only; motor assistance stops at 28 mph.

If it meets this definition:

- Does not require registration, license plate, or driver's license.
- Is not subject to OHRV laws.



OHRV

An electric-powered two-wheel vehicle is generally not an e-bike and is instead treated as an OHRV if it:

- Does not have fully operable pedals
- (many Sur-Ron, Talaria, E Ride Pro, and similar "e-motos").
- Has a motor of 750 watts or greater.
- Is capable of speeds greater than 28 mph with electric assistance.
- Has been modified so it no longer complies with the statutory e-bike definition.



EXAMPLES

VEHICLE	NH CLASSIFICATION
Pedal-assist bike, 500W, 20 mph	Class 1 E-Bike
Throttle bike, 750W, 20 mph	Class 2 E-Bike
Pedal-assist bike, 750W, 28 mph	Class 3 E-Bike
Sur-Ron Light Bee (no functional pedals, ~4,000W)	OHRV
Electric dirt bike with pegs instead of pedals	OHRV
Talaria Sting (no pedals, high speed)	OHRV
Modified e-bike capable of 35-40 mph	No longer qualifies as an e-bike; subject to OHRV or motor vehicle laws depending on its configuration and use.