

City of Encinitas City Council's Office

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April 24, 2024

Tony Kranz Mayor The Honorable Lori Wilson
Chair, Assembly Committee on Transportation
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2234 (Boerner) Vehicles: electric bicycles – Notice of Support

Dear Chair Wilson,

Allison Blackwell
Deputy Mayor

The City of Encinitas is pleased to support AB 2234 (Boerner), which would require the California Highway Patrol to develop statewide safety and training programs for electric bicycle users, issue skills waivers to program completers, and impose restrictions for operating electric bicycles.

Bruce EhlersCouncil Member

With the increasing popularity of e-bikes as an alternative mode of transportation and recreation, there has been a corresponding rise in safety concerns and regulatory ambiguities surrounding their use. Currently, there is a lack of standardized safety training and education programs specifically tailored to e-bike riders, leading to potential risks for both riders and other road users. Additionally, the absence of clear regulations regarding age restrictions and licensing requirements for e-bike operators has created confusion and inconsistencies in enforcement practices.

Kellie Shay Hinze
Council Member

AB 2234 seeks to fill these gaps by establishing comprehensive safety and training programs, issuing skills waivers to certified riders, setting age restrictions, and outlining requirements for operators without a valid driver's license. Starting July 1, 2025, this measure would prohibit a person under the age of 12 years old from operating an electric bike of any class and would require anyone over the age of 12 without a driver's license to have a skills waiver issued by the Department of California Highway Patrol. These parameters around electric bike operations will increase safety for users and pedestrians.

Joy Lyndes
Council Member

For these reasons, we are in support AB 2234 (Boerner). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (760) 633-2618.

Sincerely,

Pamela Antil City Manager

> Tony Kranz Mayor City of Encinitas