



SUPPORT

A. 7431/S. 5294 (Rozic/Ramos)

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters.

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 7431/S. 5294 (Rozic/Ramos), which would legalize electric-assisted bicycles and scooters, and protect safety on New York's streets.

Electric-assisted bicycles (e-bikes) provide supplementary electric motor power, either through motors that only engage when a cyclist is pedaling or through motors that can be engaged with a throttle. E-bikes, including "e-Citi Bikes" in New York City, are increasingly used by thousands of commuters, recreational cyclists, and low-income delivery workers who rely on e-bikes to make a living. E-bikes are safer than cars, and have a very small carbon footprint.

Electric scooters, which have a maximum speed of 20 mph, can also reduce emissions and make streets safer. A comprehensive safety study in Portland, Oregon concluded e-scooters could contribute to a reduction in serious injuries and fatalities, and e-scooter share programs have been very successful in cities including San Diego and Portland.

Under current New York law, electric bikes and scooters exist in a legal gray area. A. 7431/S. 5294 would amend the vehicle and traffic law to establish a clear definition of e-bikes that is separate from other motor vehicles, enact clear rules for the use of pedal-assisted e-bikes and electric scooters, and set safety standards that such vehicles must comply with including maximum speed limits set by a regulator on the e-bike or e-scooters motor.

E-bikes and e-scooters, when operated safely, have a vital role to play in creating a zero-carbon transportation system. For these reasons, the NYLCV strongly urges passage of A. 7431/S. 5294 (Rozic/Ramos).

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