

Senate File 490 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 490
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 375)

(COMPANION TO HF 74 BY GUSTOFF)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the maximum power output for low-speed
2 electric bicycles and pedestrian conveyances powered by an
3 electric motor.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.1, subsection 36A, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 "*Low-speed electric bicycle*" means a device ~~having~~ equipped
4 with a saddle or seat for the use of a rider, two or three
5 wheels, ~~equipped with~~ fully operable pedals, and an electric
6 motor ~~of less than~~ that produces not more than seven hundred
7 fifty watts that meets, and is classified in accordance with the
8 following requirements of one of the following classes:

9 Sec. 2. Section 321.1, subsection 51A, Code 2025, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 51A. "*Pedestrian conveyance*" means any human-powered device
12 by which a pedestrian may move other than by walking or by which
13 a pedestrian may move another person, including but not limited
14 to a wheelchair, stroller, skateboard, scooter, or other similar
15 device. "*Pedestrian conveyance*" also includes an electric
16 personal assistive mobility device and any other device used to
17 move a person sitting or standing on the device regardless of
18 whether the device is powered by an electric motor, so long as
19 the electric motor produces ~~less~~ not more than seven hundred
20 fifty watts. "*Pedestrian conveyance*" does not include a bicycle.

21 EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill relates to the authorized maximum power produced
25 by electric motors on low-speed electric bicycles and pedestrian
26 conveyances. Current law limits the output of such electric
27 motors to less than 750 watts. The bill instead authorizes
28 such electric motors to produce not more than 750 watts. If an
29 electric motor produces more than 750 watts and is attached to
30 what would otherwise be considered a low-speed electric bicycle
31 or personal conveyance, the provisions of Code chapter 321
32 (motor vehicles and law of the road) relating to vehicles, motor
33 vehicles, automobiles, cars, motorcycles, and motorized bicycles
34 are applicable to such vehicles.