

E-Bike Overview

- Full enforcement starts: **July 20, 2026** (after a grace period)

The goal: respond to rising crashes and safety concerns by treating e-bikes more like motor vehicles.

Key rule changes

1) E-bikes are now “motorized bicycles”

- The old **Class 1 / 2 / 3 system is basically gone**
 - All e-bikes are treated similarly to mopeds under NJ law
 - This is the biggest shift—legally, you’re no longer “just riding a bike.”
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2) License required

- **Age 17+** → must have a driver’s license
 - **Age 15–16** → need a special motorized bicycle license
 - **Under 15** → **banned entirely**
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3) Registration required

- Every e-bike must be registered with the **NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)**
 - First year fees may be waived (transition period)
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4) Insurance required

- Riders must carry **liability insurance**
 - Typical expected cost: a few hundred dollars per year (still being finalized)
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5) Helmet required for everyone

- Helmets are **mandatory regardless of age**
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6) Minimum age: 15

- No exceptions—even for low-speed or pedal-assist bikes
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7) Additional restrictions

- Ban on **modification kits** that increase speed/power
 - Temporary **ban on certain online e-bike sales**
 - Fines start around **\$50+ per violation**
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Timeline

- **Jan 2026:** Law passed
 - **Jan–July 2026:** Grace period to get compliant
 - **July 20, 2026:** Full enforcement begins
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Why the law changed

- Increase in **serious crashes and fatalities**
 - More accountability (registration)

- Financial protection (insurance)
 - Safer riders (licensing + age limits)
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Bottom line

Starting summer 2026 in New Jersey, riding an e-bike legally requires:

- ✓ License (or special permit)
- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Helmet
- ✓ Age 15+

In practical terms: **owning and riding an e-bike now looks a lot like owning a small motor vehicle.**