

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	Senate File 490	House Committee:	PASSED 20-0 (1/28/26)
Committee:	Transportation	House Floor:	PASSED 82-4 (3/5/26)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Bob Henderson	Senate Floor:	PASSED 49-0 (3/24/25)
Date:	May 5, 2026	Governor:	SIGNED (4/30/26)
Staff:	Brad Trow (1-3471)		

Regulating Motor Size of Electric Bicycles

Senate File 490 sets the maximum amount of power that an electric motor can generate and still be considered a low-speed electric bicycle. The bill defines what a “low-speed electric bicycle” is and sets the power limit for pedestrian conveyance with an electric motor at no more than 750 watts.

Bicycles and pedestrian conveyances with motors that generate more than 750 watts of power would be regulated as motor vehicles under Iowa law.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 [Iowa Code section 321.1 (36A)]:

The section amends the definition of a “low-speed electric bicycle” by limiting the size of the electric motor to those producing no more than 750 watts of power.

Section 2 [Iowa Code section 321.1 (51A)]:

The section amends the definition of a “pedestrian conveyance” to clarify this includes those devices with an electric motor that produces no more than 750 watts of power. Under the definition, the following are considered to be pedestrian conveyances: wheelchair, stroller, skateboard, scooter, or similar device.