

The High Cost of Riding an E-Moto

E-motos might be cheaper to purchase, but they can be **more dangerous and costly** when used incorrectly. Since they are legally motor vehicles, they are subject to the following penalties:

Violation	Fee	Additional penalties
Riding without a license or under 16 23 V.S.A. §§ 601, 615	\$162	2 points on license, or delay getting a license
No registration 23 V.S.A. § 301	\$162	
No license plates 23 V.S.A. § 511	\$105	
No liability insurance 23 V.S.A. § 800	\$162	Suspension of privilege to drive a motor vehicle
Riding on a sidewalk or shared-use path 23 V.S.A. § 1132	\$220	2 points on license, or delay getting a license
Allowing a child to break these laws 23 V.S.A. § 1130	\$249	
Possible Total	\$1,060	

Additional penalties can be incurred for

reckless driving, failure to yield to a pedestrian, eluding a police officer, and more.

Purchasing devices in-person or from trusted online retailers is the best way to protect you and your child from unnecessary financial, legal, and safety risks.

Questions? Visit localmotion.org/ebikes to learn more.



Is it an E-bike or E-moto?

A guide to making safe mobility choices.

E-bikes vs E-motos

Max Speed	20 MPH ¹	No Maximum
Max Power	750 W ²	No Maximum
Requirements	None	License, Registration, and Insurance, and Plates
Sidewalks & Shared Use Paths	Allowed ²	Not Allowed
What the law treats it as	Bicycle	Motor Vehicle

1: Class 3 e-bikes can go 28 MPH with pedal assist, and users must be 16 years or older

2: Motor-assisted bicycles with a 1000 W motor can not ride on sidewalks, but are bicycles

E-motos are legally motor vehicles and are not allowed on sidewalks or shared-use paths.

Many devices sold and marketed online as e-bikes are actually e-motos in disguise.

The best way to ensure you are making a safe purchase of an e-bike is to buy from a local retailer who can confirm it meets Vermont's e-bike standards. Plus, local retailers can help you to navigate available e-bike rebates.

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