

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 715

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of an electric bicycle in a state park.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 13.024 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.024. OPERATION OF ELECTRIC BICYCLE IN STATE PARK.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Bicycle" has the meaning assigned by Section 541.201, Transportation Code.

(2) "Class 1 electric bicycle" and "Class 2 electric bicycle" have the meanings assigned by Section 664.001, Transportation Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by Subsection (d), a person may operate in a state park:

(1) a Class 1 electric bicycle in an area where the operation of a bicycle is permitted; and

(2) a Class 2 electric bicycle in an area where the person has been authorized by the park to operate a Class 2 electric bicycle.

(c) The commission by rule shall adopt:

(1) forms and procedures for a person to apply to a state park for authorization to operate a Class 2 electric bicycle in the park; and

(2) criteria for an employee of a state park to use to:

1 (A) approve or disapprove an application under
2 Subdivision (1); and

3 (B) place limitations, if any, on the area of the
4 park in which operation of a Class 2 electric bicycle is authorized.

5 (d) The department may prohibit the operation of a Class 1
6 or Class 2 electric bicycle in an area of a state park described by
7 Subsection (b) if the department determines the prohibition is
8 necessary to protect:

9 (1) public safety;

10 (2) state park infrastructure; or

11 (3) state fish or wildlife resources or habitat.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.