

Council Agenda Bill

AB Number

AB25-120

Agenda Bill Information

Title*

Electric Motorcycle Ordinance

Action*

Motion

Council Agenda Section

Ordinance

Council Meeting Date*

11/24/2025

Staff Member

Gary Horejsi

Department*

Police

Committee

Public Safety

Committee Date

11/17/2025

Exhibits

Packet Attachments - If any

E-Motorcycle Ordinance .docx

32.47KB

Ord 1315 E-Motorcycles.docx

25.73KB

Summary

Introduction*

Brief summary.

The City of Snoqualmie has seen an increase in electric motorcycles (also known as e-motorcycles). This city proposes adding an ordinance to clearly define an electric motorcycle along with requirements for operation in the city limits.

Proposed Motion

Move to approve Ordinance 1315 adopting SMC Chapter 10.36 to define and regulate electric motorcycles.

Background/Overview*

What was done (legislative history, previous actions, ability to hyperlink)

The City of Snoqualmie has seen an increase in electric motorcycles over the past few years. E-motorcycles represent a potential safety hazard to other motor vehicle drivers and pedestrians due to their rapid acceleration, high speeds, and their common use among our youth with observed dangerous behaviors. In Washington State

according to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, fatalities from motorcycles have increased from 75 in 2015 to 139 in 2023. The electric dirtbike market in the United States is expected to grow from \$500 million in 2024 to \$1.7 billion in 2033 according to Core Logic Insights.

The proposed ordinance would adopt chapter 10.36 into the Snoqualmie Municipal Code. The proposed ordinance defines and "electric motorcycle" as a motorcycle, as defined by RCW 46.04.330: which is powered by an electric motor. To differentiate an electric motorcycle from an electric bicycle an electric motorcycle:

- Is not equipped with fully operable pedals capable of propelling it. Foot pegs are not considered pedals; or
- Has a motor with a power output that exceeds 750 watts; or
- Has a motor that continues to provide assistance when the vehicle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.

The ordinance consistent with State law, requires electric motorcycles to register with the Washington State Department of Licensing, and are subject to the provisions of RCW 46.61.705 (Off-road Motorcycles). The must display a valid license plate and may only be operated by individuals with a valid driver's license and motorcycle endorsement.

The ordinance also:

- Prohibits guardians from authorizing or knowingly permitting a minor in their care to operate an electric motorcycle in violation of Snoqualmie Municipal Code Chapter 10.36 and subjecting violating guardians to fines.
- Requires electric motorcycle operators to obey all traffic laws subject to RCW 46.61 and provide that infractions are subject to a monetary penalty.
- Requires any person operating an electric motorcycle to wear a helmet.
- Permits law enforcement officers to impound and establishes penalties for an electric motorcycle operated in violation of Snoqualmie Municipal Code 10.36

Analysis*

This ordinance clearly defines an electric motorcycle and establishes requirements for their operation as a way to help keep our community and our youth safe.

Budgetary Status*

This action has no budgetary implications.

Budget Summary