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That e-bike flying past you at high speeds could soon be banned in New York.

New York lawmakers want to ban the sale of high-speed electric vehicles that are being marketed as regular e-bikes.

New York Wants To Ban The Sale Of High-Speed Electric Bikes



Photo by Team Evelo on Unsplash.

If you've ever been on a bike path and had what looked like an e-bike blow past you at motorcycle speed, a new bill in New York is designed to address that problem.

The reason it's being introduced right now is as serious as it gets.

New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez and Assemblymember Diana Moreno have introduced Senate Bill S.10700, which would ban the sale of so-called "e-motos," high-speed electric two-wheelers capable of exceeding 50 mph that are currently being sold and marketed as ordinary e-bikes.

The bill creates a formal legal definition for e-motos as any electric two-wheeler that travels over 20 mph, doesn't qualify under existing law as a standard e-bike or e-scooter, and isn't registered with the DMV.

This follows a fatal head-on collision on the Queensboro Bridge bike path, where an illegal high-speed electric vehicle traveling inside a narrow pedestrian and cyclist lane struck a conventional bicycle and killed two people.



Photo by G-FORCE Bike on Unsplash

Under the proposal, both online and brick-and-mortar retailers would be banned from selling these vehicles to New York buyers, with civil penalties up to $1,000 per violation.

Deceptively marketing a 40 or 50 mph electric motorcycle as an e-bike would also be explicitly prohibited. Sellers would be required to post clear warnings that e-motos cannot legally be ridden on public roads, bike lanes, or sidewalks anywhere in the state.

Supporters of the bill, including the New York Bicycling Coalition, argue that the problem needs to be stopped at the point of sale rather than on the street after the fact.

If it's illegal to ride on public roads, the argument goes, it shouldn't be legal to sell to the public.

Lawmakers are also clear that this isn't an attack on standard e-bikes. The target is the unregulated, uninsured, motorcycle-speed vehicles that are currently exploiting a legal gray area to get onto bike paths and sidewalks where they don't belong.

New York isn't alone. California, Illinois, and New Jersey have all introduced or passed similar legislation in 2026.

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

Fatal Downstate E-Bike Fires Trigger Danger Warnings From Experts

BY Breanna Fuss Buffalo
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BUFFALO, N.Y. - A recent e-bike battery fire tore through a downstate apartment, killing four family members, one of two fatal fires that took the lives of 10 people in just eight days, is sparking safety tips and reminders from experts regarding proper use and disposal of lithium-ion batteries.

A fire in the Bronx left three teens dead, as well as a 33-year-old woman, due to an e-bike catching fire. It was next to the front door in the kitchen, trapping the family inside. They say when a lithium-ion battery fails, it can fill a room with fire and toxic gas in seconds and fires cannot be put out with a standard fire extinguisher. Most lithium ion batteries work safely, but the risks climb when a battery is damaged, charged with the wrong charger, overcharged, modified, or uncertified.

If you notice any odd smells or changes in shape or color of the battery, experts advise you to stop using it immediately and contact your local fire station or call 911. But the experts at

Viridi, who specialize in designing and building fail-safe battery energy storage systems, say the better deal does not equate to better safety.

"Do your homework. There's a lot of resources out there you can look at. I don't think it's any secret that there's a continuing problem with cheaply made, poorly engineered products out there that consumers see a value to but don't like the dangers," Viridi's Lawrence Pirrone.

The same goes for improper disposal. When lithium-ion batteries are thrown in the trash, they are crushed, creating a reaction, leading to an explosion.

So where do the batteries go? On Call2Recycle's website, you can find nearby venues that will collect them from you. The DEC has a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Guide as well.

Regarding other batteries, while they don't pose nearly as much of a risk as lithium-ion batteries, they could spark a fire. Especially if they are crushed by any machinery while at the processing center. So, you're asked to avoid putting those into your trash or recycling totes as well.