

Ride Ready

E-Bike and E-Scooter Public Safety Awareness for Families

A guide to e-bike classifications, e-scooter laws, and parental liability.

The Regulatory Response

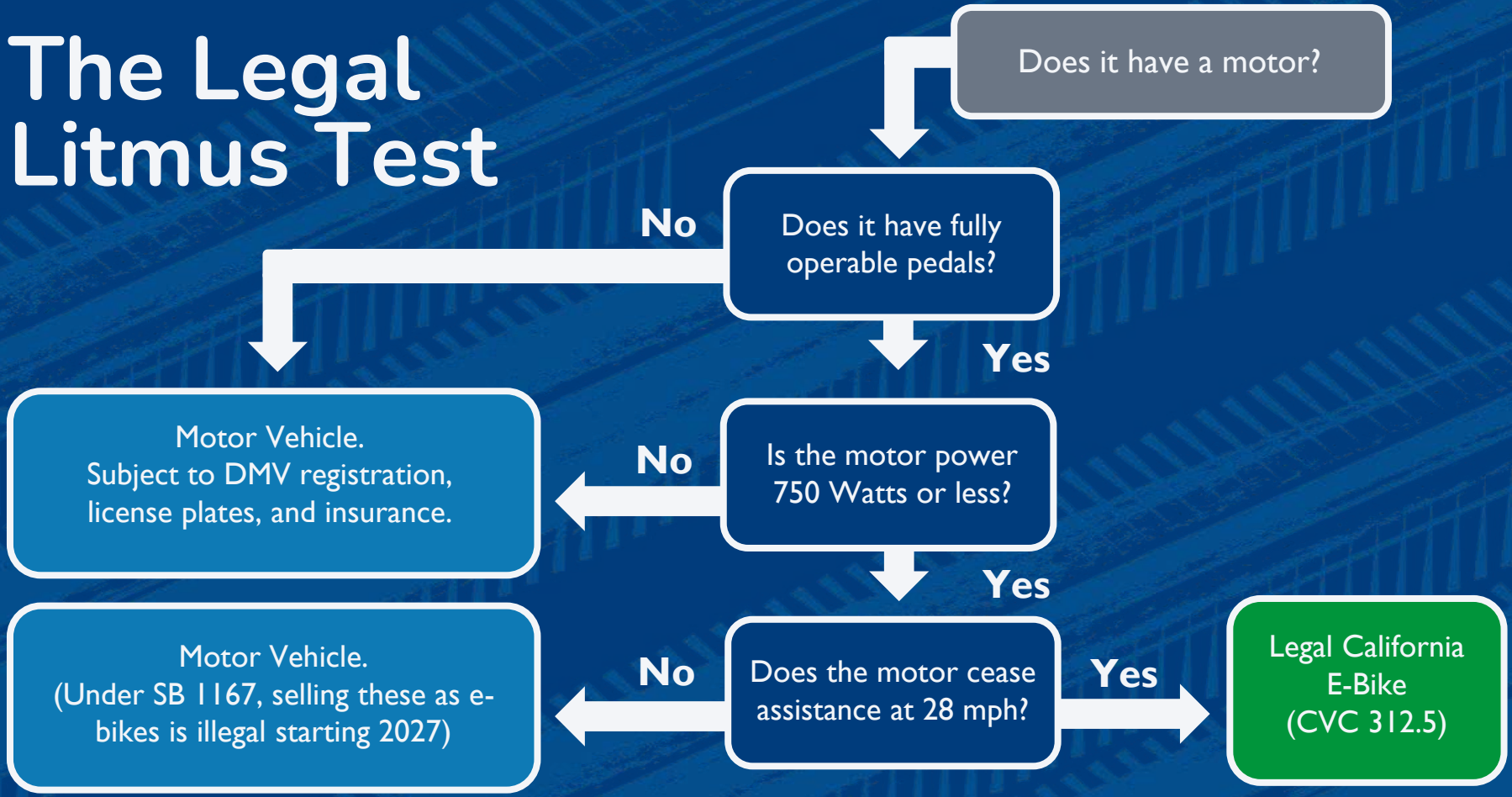
- **Folsom:** 350+ e-bike police calls in 2025 (90% involving juveniles)
- **Galt:** Urgency Ordinance citing/towing illegal e-bikes
- **Galt:** 350+ e-bike police calls in 2025 (90% involving juveniles)
- **Elk Grove:** New sidewalk bans & racing prohibitions

The Surge in Casualties

- **1 in 4** children treated for e-bike injuries at CHLA require hospitalization
- **1,566** e-bike injury collisions in California (2024)
- **50,000+** national e-scooter ER visits (2022)

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The Legal Litmus Test

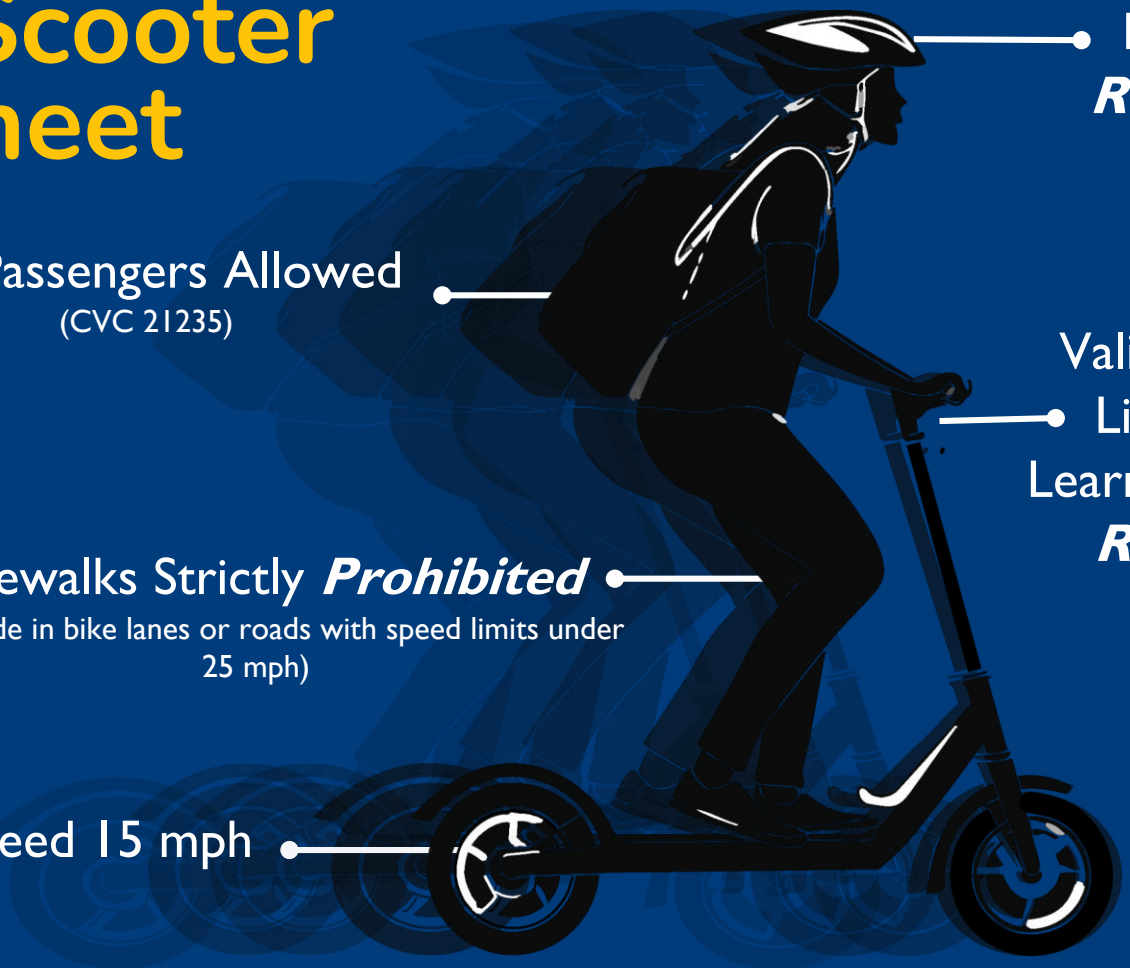


THE THREE E-BIKE CLASSES

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Class 1 (Pedal Assist)	Class 2 (Throttle)	Class 3 (Pedal Assist)
Max Assisted Speed: 20 mph	*Max Assisted Speed: 20 mph*	*Max Assisted Speed: 28 mph (Speedometer required)*
Motor Operation: Pedal assist only	*Motor Operation: Throttle or pedal assist*	*Motor Operation: Pedal assist only*
Age Limit: None	*Age Limit: None*	*Age Limit: 16+ (CA AB 965 prohibits sales to minors)*
Helmet: Required under 18	*Helmet: Required under 18*	*Helmet Law: Required for ALL ages*

The E-Scooter Spec Sheet



Helmet ***Required***
(Under 18)

No Passengers Allowed
(CVC 21235)

Valid Driver's License or Learner's Permit ***Required***

Sidewalks Strictly ***Prohibited***
(Must ride in bike lanes or roads with speed limits under 25 mph)

Max Speed 15 mph

The E-Moto Prohibition



The Hardware

- Often resembles a dirt bike (e.g., Sur-Ron)
- No pedals, or pedals easily removed
- Capable of exceeding 30 mph on motor power alone

The Legal Reality

- Classified as motorcycles/mopeds, NOT e-bikes
- Strictly banned from trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks
- Requires DMV registration, license plates, and an M1/M2 motorcycle license.
- Subject to immediate police impoundment if ridden illegally by minors

The Hardware Mandate:
SB 1271



The threat:
Unregulated batteries pose a severe thermal runaway and fire risk.

The 2026/2027 Law:
California prohibits the sale or lease of any e-bike unless its battery is laboratory-certified to UL 2849 or 2271 standards.

Charger Compliance:
Charging systems must be specifically certified for the battery they accompany

Actionable Takeaway:
Never buy aftermarket “speed unlock” kits or uncertified replacement batteries – they void safety ratings and invite catastrophic failure

Where They Belong:
The Built Environment

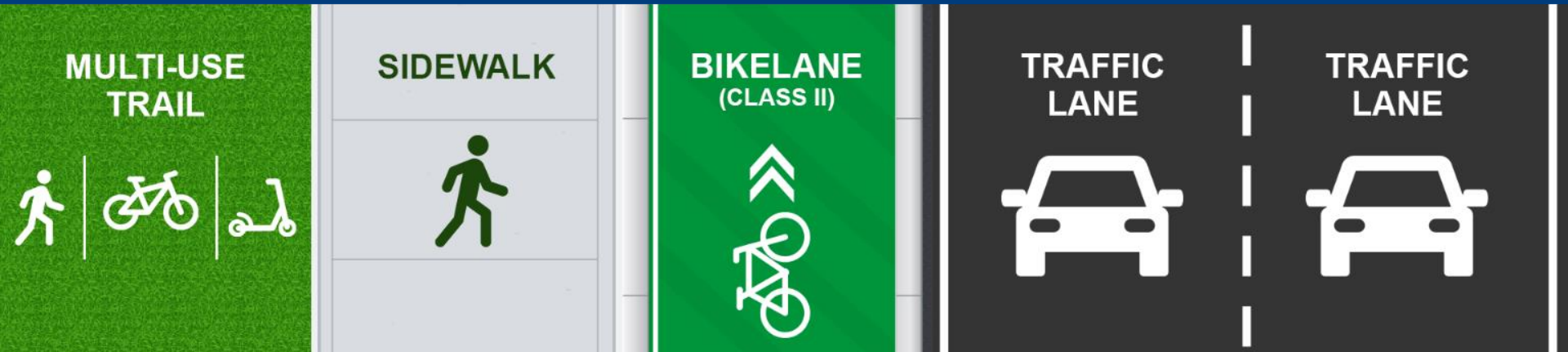
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Multi-Use Trail
- Class 1 and 2 E-bikes ALLOWED
- Class 3 E-bikes BANNED
- E-motos BANNED

Sidewalk
NO e-bikes or e-scooters allowed

Class II Bike Lane
NO e-bikes or e-scooters allowed

Traffic Lane
ALL e-bikes and e-scooters allowed



The Escalation Ladder of Enforcement

Step 3: Impoundment

AB 875 grants law enforcement authority to physically remove and impound Class 3 e-bikes operated by anyon under 16, or e-motos ridden without a license.

Step 2: Mandatory Education

- Citations can be reduced if the minor completed an approved CHP safety course (CVC 21212).
- AB 1569 mandates statewide safety programs for grades 7-12 by 2028.

Step 1: Administrative Citations

- Base fines around $197 for sidewalk riding or helmet violations.
- Escalating local structures (e.g., Folsom: $50 1st, $100 2nd, $500 3rd).

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The Financial Cascade

(Civil Code 1714.1)

The Act:

An underage rider on an overpowered/illegal device causes property damage or injures a pedestrian.

The Liability:

Parents are held directly accountable for the willful misconduct of a minor.

Up to **$25,000** in Joint Parental Liability

Subtext: Buying a high-speed device for an underage, unlicensed child can be construed as "negligent entrustment," leaving parents entirely exposed to civil lawsuits.

The 2026/2027 Pre-Ride Protocol



1. Verify the class:
Locate the manufacturer label. Is it Class 1, 2, or 3? Does it exceed 750W?



2. Check the Age:
If it's a Class 3 e-bike or any E-Scooter, the rider MUST be 16 or older.



3. Confirm the License:
If it's an E-Scooter, verify the rider holds a valid CA driver's license or permit.



4. Inspect the Helmet:
Ensure riders under 18 have a fastened, well-fitting helmet (required for all ages on Class 3)



5. Review the Route:
Confirm the intended path allows the device (No scooters on sidewalks, No Class 3 on the American River Parkway)