



CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

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April 23, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1167 – Support

Dear Senator Blakespear,

As Mayor of the City of Solana Beach and on behalf of our City Council, I write to express our strong support for SB 1167. The lack of clarity on the labeling of electric mobility devices and the purchasing of high-powered, high-speed devices for youth without understanding the legality, dangers, and capabilities of the devices has created significant traffic dangers and safety concerns on our roadways that require timely legislative clarity.

Currently, the three-class system for e-bikes has led to consumer confusion that "unscrupulous businesses" have exploited by marketing powerful motor vehicles as e-bikes, often purchased by parents for their children. In many cases, devices marketed to parents are capable of speeds exceeding 50 mph and power outputs up to 5,000 watts—well beyond the legal 750-watt and 28-mph limits. This false advertising causes users to underestimate the dangers of these vehicles and fail to utilize necessary safety precautions required for mopeds or motorcycles of similar speeds.

SB 1167 provides essential solutions to these municipal safety challenges by:

- **Clarifying Definitions:** Explicitly defining within state law that any device exceeding 750 watts or established speed limits is not an e-bike, but a motor vehicle.
- **Enhancing Transparency:** Requiring manufacturers to disclose when a device is not an e-bike and mandating standardized, visible labeling for easier identification by parents, law enforcement and school officials.
- **Improving Data Collection:** Requiring crash and injury reports to include label information, which is vital for cities to assess risk and create targeted safety policies.
- **Restricting Dangerous Use:** Prohibiting out-of-class devices that lack standard safety equipment from operating on the public right-of-way.

We find it concerning that nearly 88% of electric two-wheel devices found on school grounds do not meet the legal definition of an e-bike. Without this legislation, and continued education, the safety of our children, pedestrians, and lawful cyclists remains at risk due to vehicles that bypass speed limits through mobile applications or misleading marketing.

Solana Beach remains committed to promoting safe riding practices through education and information. We respectfully request that the legislature pass SB 1167 to ensure that manufacturers are held responsible and our streets remain safe for all users.

Sincerely,

LESA HEEBNER
Mayor, City of Solana Beach