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CARY POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 8, 2026

Re: Status of Illinois State Laws Relating to Electric Bicycles, Scooters, and other Unregulated Devices

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well as we prepare for the nicer weather and summer ahead. With that said, I want to address a growing concern within the community regarding the use of electric bicycles, scooters, and other unregulated devices that have caused safety issues. I hope you will find the following summaries useful in your decision to purchase these devices for your children.

Electric Scooters:

Currently, under Illinois State Law (625 ILCS 5/11-1518), electric scooters may only be operated within the corporate limits of the Village of Cary if the Village of Cary authorizes and regulates their use by municipal ordinance (local law). The Village of Cary currently does not authorize their use, and therefore, they are not permitted to be used within the village.

Further, the Illinois Vehicle Code prescribes foundational, non-discretionary laws for the use of electric scooters that preempt a municipality's ability to authorize use of electric scooters in a manner less restrictive than the state law. An example of this is the state law requiring a person to be at least 18 years of age or older to operate an electric scooter.

In summary, the use of electric scooters within the village is currently prohibited. Additionally, no person under the age of 18 should be operating an electric scooter pursuant to state law.

Electric Bicycles:

The use of low-speed electric bicycles does not require the Village of Cary to adopt an ordinance to permit usage. The Village of Cary has not addressed the specific use of electric bicycles by local municipal code, and therefore their use is currently governed by the Illinois Vehicle Code. Below is a summary of the state laws regarding the use of electric bicycles:

- There are three classes of electric bicycles – Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3. All 3 classes of electric bicycles have manual pedal capabilities.
 - Class 1 electric bicycles have an electric motor that only assists when the rider is pedaling, and the motor will not assist if the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

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- Class 3 electric bicycles have an electric motor that only assists when the rider is pedaling, and the motor will not assist if the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.
 - A person must be 16 years of age or older to operate a Class 3 electric bicycle.
- Class 2 electric bicycles are the outlier. They have an electric motor that can be activated by throttle-type device, even when the rider is not pedaling. The motor will stop assisting when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- Electric bicycles, regardless of class, cannot be operated on a sidewalk.
- Electric bicycles may be operated upon any highway, street, or roadway authorized for use by bicycles, including bicycle lanes.
- Electric bicycles may be operated on bicycle paths unless expressly prohibited by the governing authority.

In summary, electric bicycles may be operated within the Village of Cary corporate limits in the same manner as manual bicycles, notwithstanding the state-prescribed regulations relating to classification, age, speed, and special prohibitions.

"E-Motos" and Other Devices:

Other devices, often referred to as hoverboards, one-wheels, and e-motos are prohibited from being used in the village, including bicycle paths, roadways, and sidewalks.

Looking Ahead:

The Illinois Legislature is currently considering legislation under Senate Bill 3336, which if passed, will more clearly define each of these conveyances, as well as more clearly regulate their permitted usage state-wide. The Village of Cary is actively monitoring the status of this legislation and will be taking steps to consider and adopt appropriate local ordinances to ensure the safe operation of these devices within the Village of Cary.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (847) 474-8046, or nhayes@caryillinois.com.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring our community remains a safe place to live, visit, and enjoy.

Sincerely,



Nathan Hayes
Chief of Police

ILLINOIS E-BIKE LAW CHANGES (2026)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



THIS IS PROPOSED LEGISLATION – NOT CURRENT LAW.

The following changes have passed the Illinois Senate and move next to the House for consideration. Changes may be made.

AGE REQUIREMENTS (PROPOSED)



CLASS 1 & 2

Minimum age

15

(PROPOSED)



CLASS 3

Minimum age

16+

(CURRENT LAW – UNCHANGED)

HIGH-SPEED DEVICE CRACKDOWN (PROPOSED)



Applies to e-bikes that are:

- Capable of speeds over 28 mph on level ground, OR
- Equipped with motors over 750 watts

These high-speed devices would likely be treated like mopeds / motorcycles.

May require:



LICENSE



REGISTRATION



INSURANCE

WHY THIS MATTERS

- ✓ Addresses unsafe high-speed devices on roads and trails.
- ✓ Creates statewide consistency.
- ✓ Reduces confusion across cities and communities.



IMPORTANT NOTE



STANDARD E-BIKES (CLASS 1-3)

NO MAJOR CHANGES EXPECTED



The focus of this legislation is on “e-motos” and modified / high-power bikes that behave more like motor vehicles.



LAWS CAN CHANGE. STAY INFORMED.

For the most up-to-date information, visit ilga.gov or consult local authorities.





ILLINOIS E-BIKE LAWS



(UPDATED 4/23/26)

KNOW THE RULES. RIDE SAFE.

E-BIKE CLASSES (STATE LAW)

CLASS 1 PEDAL ASSIST



Motor only works
when pedaling

MAX SPEED

20 MPH

CLASS 2 THROTTLE



Can move without
pedaling

MAX SPEED

20 MPH

CLASS 3 SPEED PEDAL ASSIST



Pedal assist only

MAX SPEED

28 MPH

MUST BE AGE 16+

WHERE YOU CAN RIDE

- ✓ Streets & roads
- ✓ Bike lanes
- ✓ Bike paths
(unless restricted by local ordinance)
- ✗ Sidewalks
NOT ALLOWED
statewide



KEY RULES

-  E-bikes are treated like bicycles, **NOT** motor vehicles.
-  No license, registration, or insurance required.
-  Must follow all traffic laws.
-  Maximum motor output: 750 watts.

SAFETY MATTERS

-  Helmets are **NOT** required by state law.
-  Lights required at night.
-  Yield to pedestrians.
-  Class 3 e-bikes **MUST** have a speedometer.



RIDE RESPONSIBLY. BE PREDICTABLE. SHARE THE ROAD.
SAFE RIDERS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS IN THE VILLAGE OF CARY



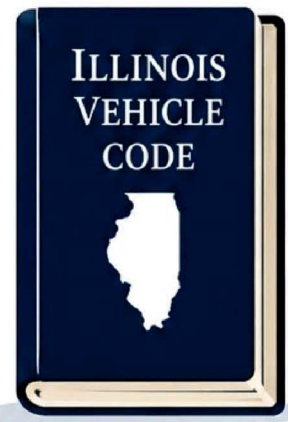
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The Village of Cary currently does not authorize their use, and therefore, they are **not permitted** to be used within the village.



Further, the Illinois Vehicle Code prescribes foundational, non-discretionary laws for the use of electric scooters that preempt a municipality's ability to authorize use of electric scooters in a manner less restrictive than the state law.



An example of this is the state law requiring a person to be at least **18 years of age or older** to operate an electric scooter.



























IN SUMMARY:



The use of electric scooters within the village is currently **PROHIBITED**.



Additionally, no person **under the age of 18** should be operating an electric scooter pursuant to state law.

			
 <p>E-Scooters</p>			
 <p>E-Bike Class 1</p>			
 <p>E-Bike Class 2</p>			
 <p>E-Bike Class 3 Age: 16+</p>			
 <p>E-Motos</p>			

When in doubt, please contact the Village of Cary Police Department: (847) 639-2341