

HOUSE BILL 156

R2

4lr1224

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate R. Lewis**

Requested: October 27, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program to
4 provide rebates and vouchers for qualified individuals who purchase electric bicycles
5 and related items; and generally relating to the Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher
6 Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 2–609

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 11–117.1

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 **2–609.**

21 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
22 INDICATED.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) “AUTHORIZED RETAILER” MEANS A RETAILER THAT:**

2 **(I) SELLS COVERED ITEMS FROM A PHYSICAL LOCATION IN THE**
3 **STATE; AND**

4 **(II) HAS ENTERED INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**
5 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO REDEEM VOUCHERS ISSUED THROUGH THE PROGRAM.**

6 **(3) “COVERED ITEM” MEANS:**

7 **(I) A NEW ELECTRIC BICYCLE, AS DEFINED IN § 11-117.1 OF**
8 **THIS ARTICLE, THAT CAN BE LEGALLY OWNED AND OPERATED IN THE STATE;**

9 **(II) A REPLACEMENT BATTERY FOR AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE;**

10 **(III) COMPONENTS TO BE INSTALLED ON AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE**
11 **TO MAKE THE ELECTRIC BICYCLE USABLE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY;**

12 **(IV) A BICYCLE LOCK USED TO SECURE AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE;**
13 **OR**

14 **(V) ROUTINE MAINTENANCE FOR AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE.**

15 **(4) “PRIORITY APPLICANT” MEANS AN APPLICANT WHO IS ELIGIBLE**
16 **TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS UNDER**
17 **STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.**

18 **(5) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ELECTRIC BICYCLE REBATE AND**
19 **VOUCHER PROGRAM.**

20 **(B) (1) THERE IS AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE REBATE AND VOUCHER**
21 **PROGRAM.**

22 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE**
23 **PROGRAM.**

24 **(C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY QUALIFY FOR A REBATE IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

25 **(1) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;**

26 **(2) IS A MARYLAND RESIDENT;**

1 **(3) HAS PURCHASED A COVERED ITEM FROM AN AUTHORIZED**
2 **RETAILER FOR PERSONAL USE, INCLUDING FOR COMMUTING, ON OR AFTER**
3 **OCTOBER 1, 2024;**

4 **(4) (I) FALLS BELOW AN INCOME THRESHOLD DETERMINED BY**
5 **THE DEPARTMENT; OR**

6 **(II) IS A PRIORITY APPLICANT;**

7 **(5) HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION IN A FORM AS DETERMINED BY**
8 **THE DEPARTMENT; AND**

9 **(6) HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A REBATE OR A VOUCHER**
10 **UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

11 **(D) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY QUALIFY FOR A VOUCHER IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

12 **(1) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;**

13 **(2) IS A MARYLAND RESIDENT;**

14 **(3) IS SEEKING TO PURCHASE A COVERED ITEM FROM AN**
15 **AUTHORIZED RETAILER FOR PERSONAL USE, INCLUDING FOR COMMUTING;**

16 **(4) (I) FALLS BELOW AN INCOME THRESHOLD DETERMINED BY**
17 **THE DEPARTMENT; OR**

18 **(II) IS A PRIORITY APPLICANT;**

19 **(5) HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION IN A FORM AS DETERMINED BY**
20 **THE DEPARTMENT; AND**

21 **(6) HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A REBATE OR A VOUCHER**
22 **UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

23 **(E) (1) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, THE DEPARTMENT**
24 **SHALL ISSUE REBATES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO QUALIFY UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF**
25 **THIS SECTION.**

26 **(2) (I) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, THE**
27 **DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE VOUCHERS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO QUALIFY UNDER**
28 **SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

1 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SPECIFY THE COVERED ITEMS TO**
2 **WHICH A VOUCHER MAY APPLY.**

3 **(III) ON NOTIFICATION THAT AN AUTHORIZED RETAILER HAS**
4 **ACCEPTED A VOUCHER FROM AN INDIVIDUAL, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A**
5 **PAYMENT TO THE AUTHORIZED RETAILER EQUAL TO THE VALUE OF THE VOUCHER.**

6 **(3) THE VALUE OF A REBATE OR A VOUCHER MAY NOT EXCEED:**

7 **(I) FOR AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE, \$2,000;**

8 **(II) FOR A REPLACEMENT BATTERY, \$300;**

9 **(III) FOR COMPONENTS TO MAKE AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE USABLE**
10 **BY AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY OR A BICYCLE LOCK, \$250; AND**

11 **(IV) FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, \$250.**

12 **(4) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE AT**
13 **LEAST 50% OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF REBATES AND VOUCHERS ISSUED UNDER THE**
14 **PROGRAM TO PRIORITY APPLICANTS.**

15 **(F) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
16 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
17 **\$100,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.**

18 **(G) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE**
19 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

20 **(H) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

21 **(1) MAINTAIN A PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE SHOWING:**

22 **(I) A LIST OF CURRENT AUTHORIZED RETAILERS; AND**

23 **(II) THE TOTAL NUMBER AND VALUE OF REBATES AND**
24 **VOUCHERS ISSUED UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND**

25 **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND EACH DECEMBER 31**
26 **THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
27 **2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE PROGRAM FOR THE**
28 **PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING:**

1 (I) ANONYMIZED DEMOGRAPHIC, GEOGRAPHIC, AND INCOME
2 DATA ON INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED REBATES OR VOUCHERS;

3 (II) INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATING AUTHORIZED
4 RETAILERS; AND

5 (III) A BREAKDOWN OF COVERED ITEMS FOR WHICH
6 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED REBATES OR VOUCHERS.

7 11-117.1.

8 (a) "Electric bicycle" means a vehicle that:

9 (1) Is designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an
10 electric motor;

11 (2) Is equipped with fully operable pedals;

12 (3) Has two or three wheels;

13 (4) Has a motor with a rating of 750 watts or less; and

14 (5) Meets one of the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

15 (b) (1) A Class 1 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides
16 assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle
17 reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

18 (2) A Class 2 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides
19 assistance whether or not the rider is pedaling the bicycle and ceases to provide assistance
20 when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

21 (3) A Class 3 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides
22 assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle
23 reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2024.