

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL

NO. 2023-127

WHEREAS: Electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters) have become commonplace in the City of Newport; AND

WHEREAS: There are many different types of users of these motorized bicycles and scooters in Newport, most of whom are safety conscious and respect those who operate motor vehicles and non-motorized bicycles on the roadways of Newport as well as pedestrians; AND

WHEREAS: Notwithstanding paragraph two here, there have been many instances throughout the city where residents and visitors who are either operating a motor vehicle or otherwise traversing Newport's roadways have reported collisions, near collisions or worse with operators of e-bikes or e-scooters, many times reported as being under the legal age of obtaining a driver's license in Rhode Island; AND

WHEREAS: Rhode Island General Law 31-5-1 does not define either e-bikes or e-scooters as motor vehicles and does not require licensing, registration or insuring for the rider/owner or the bike/scooter; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Newport City Council hereby requests of the City of Newport's legislative delegation that the members introduce enabling legislation allowing the City Council of Newport to enact an ordinance or ordinances providing the city the right to govern the uses of e-bikes and e-scooters within the City of Newport; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That said ordinance(s) may include but shall not be limited to, age, licensing, registration and insurance requirements as well as permitted and prohibited roadways and other areas of the city.

DAVID R. CARLIN III
JEANNE-MARIE NAPOLITANO

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
DECEMBER 13, 2023



Laura C. Swistak, CMC
City Clerk