

TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION ADDRESSING SAFETY CONCERNS FOR ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

WHEREAS, electric bicycles, otherwise known as e-bikes, are regulated under Rhode Island law, and existing law requires e-bike riders under the age of 21 to wear helmets; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island law also requires helmets to be worn by anyone ages 15 and younger who is an operator or a passenger on a bicycle, or using or operating a skateboard, roller-skates, scooter or inline skates; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barrington has experienced a concerning rise in the number of juvenile riders of electric bicycles and electric scooters who have been involved in collisions; and

WHEREAS, the Town strongly supports efforts to promote public safety of all road users, including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and in particular, places the utmost importance on protecting the safety of juveniles, as vulnerable users of public roadways; and


WHEREAS, despite diligent efforts to enforce existing laws relating to operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters, it appears that stronger laws are needed to ensure public safety, such as a requirement that all operators of electric scooters who are under the age of 21 must wear helmets, and that operators of any age shall be prohibited from using handheld cell phones or other wireless communication devices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:


1. The Barrington Town Council hereby respectfully requests the General Assembly to strengthen existing laws and enact necessary legislation to ensure the safety of operators of electric bicycles and electric scooters, as well as the general public; and
2. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to circulate a copy of this resolution to the elected legislative bodies of all municipalities in Rhode Island with a request that they consider supporting this resolution; and
3. A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Town's delegation in the General Assembly.

Adopted March 9, 2026, by The Barrington Town Council

ATTEST:



Braxton Cloutier,
Barrington Town Council President



Stephanie Bernardo, CMC
Barrington Town Clerk