

## HANDS OFF OUR BIKE LAWS

Talking Points on Senate Bill 1107 (Dickerson) and House Bill 1220 (Potts)

This bill amends current bicycle law to insure that “electric foot scooters” are given the same rights and responsibilities as bicycles and electric bicycles in Tennessee. This includes adding them to Tennessee Code Annotated 55-8-175 that includes the Jeff Roth Protection Act requiring automobile drivers to give bicyclists a three foot buffer when passing. It also includes scooters in the statutes on electric bikes in TCA 55-8-301 et seq.

Bicycle riders and advocates should oppose this bill as it is currently written.

1. Scooters are not bicycles and should be placed in their own legal category.
2. The basic bicycle law was first passed in 1955 and amended in 1985 and 2007. The law on electric bikes was passed in 2016.
3. Bicycle statutes are established law and scooters first appeared on Tennessee streets in 2018. The law on bicycles should not be used for a new and unknown technology.
4. We do not want to interfere with the rights of cities to regulate scooters and we do not want them to have the right to regulate bicycles. We are not opposed to electric scooters on our streets.
5. Scooters should not be included in TCA 55-8-171 et seq. which is the basic law on bicycles. They should not be included in TCA 55-8-301 et seq. the chapter defining electric bicycles. E-bikes are just a different type of bicycle, have been used for years and are regulated by federal standards.

The scooter companies (Bird, Lime, Spin, Lyft) have a lot of money and have hired some of the most powerful and influential lobbyists in Nashville. Bicycle riders should be at the table when bike laws are changed and if we don't speak up we will be ignored. This bill is being negotiated in the back rooms of the legislature right now.

Contact your State Senator and State Representative and tell them to oppose these bills until they are amended and don't interfere with the existing rights of bicycle riders. Put the bill numbers in the email subject line and start your message with “I am opposed to SB 1107 – HB 1220”. Be polite and respectful when you make your argument.

FIND YOUR SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE HERE

<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/Apps/fmlv3/districts.aspx>

This is a copy of the bill and its current legislative status.

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/billinfo/default.aspx?BillNumber=SB1107>

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