OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
November 19, 2026

STAFF REPORT: Legislative Update

STAFF: Marivel Barajas, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: California Legislation

Summary
This report provides summary excerpts and the status of legislation affecting the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division. Information contained in this report is accurate as of October 5, 2026.

Assembly Bill 1613 (Wilson) Vehicles: off-highway motor vehicle safety.

Summary: This bill would have established the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Safety and Stewardship Program, administered by the Department's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (Division). This bill would have required the Division, by January 1, 2029, to develop and implement the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Safety and Stewardship Safety Course, developed through a stakeholder process, as specified, and issue a California Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Stewardship operator card to anyone who successfully completes the Safety Course. This bill would have required, by July 1, 2029, anyone operating an off-highway motor vehicle 16 years of age or older to be in possession of an operator card, and anyone age 15 or younger to be supervised by an adult in possession of an operator card, as specified. The bill would have required the Division to evaluate the effectiveness of the Safety Course and include that information in the Off-Highway Vehicle Commission's triennial report.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

Assembly Bill 1756 (Gonzalez) Off-highway vehicle recreation: City of Needles.

Summary: This bill extends the City of Needles (City) combined-use highway pilot project, as specified, from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2033. This bill also extends the due date of the two reports the City is required to develop and submit to the Legislature evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of the pilot project, from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2032, which requires consultation with the Department, Caltrans, and the California Highway Patrol.

Status: Signed – Chapter 131, Statutes of 2026.

Senate Bill 1167 (Blakespear) Vehicles: electric bicycles.

Summary: This bill made various changes throughout Vehicle Code to clarify what qualifies as an electric bicycle (e-bike), and the type of vehicles that are prohibited from being advertised, sold, or labeled as e-bikes. Violations of this provision are considered a misleading statement for purposes of unfair competition and false advertising provisions of the Business and Professions Code. This bill prohibits the sale of an off-highway electric motorcycle (e-moto) or moped unless the battery complies with specified electrical safety standards, and the name of the manufacturer and test standard are permanently marked on the vehicle, as specified. This bill also prohibits the use or operation of an e-moto, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or moped powered by an electric motor, on any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land unless the vehicle has been certified by the manufacturer to be compliant with specified electrical safety standards.

Status: Signed – Chapter 846, Statutes of 2026.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments