SUPPORT HB748

Topic: E-bike rebate program
Bill Patron: Delegate Joshua E. Thomas

OVERVIEW:

Establishes a rebate program in the Virginia Department of Energy for Virginia residents purchasing a qualifying Electric-Assisted Bicycle from a participating Virginia retailer. The program would provide eighty percent of program funds to income-qualified residents, increasing access to this low-cost, climate-friendly, healthy mode of transportation.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- E-bike incentives are proven to not only reduce car trips and congestion but also expand low-cost mobility options for people who might not otherwise choose to bike for transportation.
- Ten states have enacted e-bike incentive programs. Six additional states are considering an e-bike incentive program in 2024.
- Low-income households would be the primary beneficiaries: eighty percent of program funds would be allocated to income-qualified residents
- A purchaser of a new e-bike would receive a $500 rebate toward the purchase price; an income-qualified purchaser would be entitled to an additional $600.
- Denver's e-bike incentive program documented that e-bikes are car-trip replacers.
  - Those surveyed rode their e-bikes an average of 26 miles per week, replacing 3.4 round trip vehicle trips, reducing CO_2 emissions by an estimated 1,167 pounds per year.
  - 71% of respondents reported using their gas vehicles less often after purchasing their e-bike.

Virginia Bicycling Federation

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK

Jim Durham
JimDurham48@outlook.com
703-508-0762

Wyatt Gordon, Land Use & Transportation Policy Sr. Manager
wyatt@vcnva.org
Wyatt: (804) 429-7765