



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety

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DATE: April 1, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Robert Reichenberg, Chair
Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety

RE: Senate Bill 694-1

Introduction

SB 694-1 allows a motorcyclist to travel between lanes of traffic during certain slow and congested traffic situations.

Discussion

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety (GAC-MS) is comprised of eight volunteer citizens who advise the Governor and the Governor's Highway Safety Representative on motorcycle safety issues and legislation. The GAC-MS reviews legislation that could affect motorcycle safety in Oregon.

In 2010 the GAC-MS held a public hearing in the Portland area to hear input on whether a public opinion survey should be funded to ascertain support for motorcycle lane sharing in Oregon. Over 300 motorcyclists attended the public meeting. However; the GAC-MS opted not to fund the survey.

The California Highway Patrol issued a set of guidelines for motorcyclists to lane split (it is neither legal nor illegal in California). Although those guidelines were rescinded, the GAC-MS believes that any lane splitting legislation should specifically address speed and enforcement issues.

Conclusion

The GAC-MS has discussed, debated and identified merits and problems with this legislation. Initially the GAC-MS decided to take a neutral position on similar measures that were introduced. The GAC-MS decided by a 4-3 vote to support SB 694-1 as drafted.