

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

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Meeting Dates: 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes operators of motorcycles and mopeds to pass vehicles in the same or adjacent lanes during traffics jams and slowdowns.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lane-splitting versus lane-filtering.
- Other states and countries that permit lane-splitting.
- Benefits of lane-splitting for Oregon’s infrastructure.
- Safety issues associated with lane-splitting.
- Types of studies and reports that have been completed.
- Differences between motorcycle transportation and other automobiles.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Proposed (-1) amendment clarifies the language regarding lanes and direction of travel. In addition, the amendment limits the authority to pass vehicles during traffic jams and slowdowns to public highways that have a designated speed limit of 50 mph or higher.

BACKGROUND: ORS 814.240 prohibits operators of motorcycles and mopeds from driving between lanes of travel on our public roads. Specifically, it is a class B traffic violation to pass another vehicle within the same lane or between lanes.

Senate bill 694 creates an exemption to ORS 814.240. That exemption permits operators of motorcycles and mopeds to pass other vehicles in the same lane or between lanes of travel if three circumstances exist: (1) the traffic has slowed to 10 mph or less; (2) the operator of the motorcycle or moped is traveling at 20mph or less; (3) the operator of the motorcycle or moped is driving in a cautious and prudent manner.