

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/02, 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Thatcher

Prepared By: Eric Deitrick, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes operators of motorcycles and mopeds to pass vehicles in the same or adjacent lanes during traffics jams and slowdowns when: (1) the traffic has slowed to 10 mph or less; (2) the operator of the motorcycle or moped is traveling at 20 mph or less; (3) the operator of the motorcycle or moped is driving in a cautious and prudent manner; and (4) the motorcycle or moped is on a public highway with a speed limit of at least 50 mph.

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:

Clarifies language regarding lanes and direction of travel. 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 A 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 four circumstances exist: (1) the traffic has slowed to 10 mph or less; (2) the operator of the motorcycle or moped is traveling at 20 mph or less; (3) the operator of the motorcycle or moped is driving in a cautious and prudent manner; and (4) the motorcycle or moped is on a public highway with a speed limit of at least 50 mph.