



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Governor's Advisory Committee on  
Motorcycle Safety  
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**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**TO:** Senate Committee on Judiciary

**FROM:** Joe Elliott, Member  
Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety

**SUBJECT:** SB 385

## Introduction

SB 385 allows a motorcyclist to travel between lanes of traffic during certain slow down and traffic congestion 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.

The GAC-MS has discussed, debated and identified merits and problems with this legislation many times over the last seven years. The GAC-MS decided at its February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to oppose SB 385.

At the February meeting the Committee considered input from law enforcement about how difficult this legislation will be to enforce, even in low speed situations. We also heard from the motorcycle training experts at TEAM OREGON about use of escape routes and the dangers of sharing lane space. ODOT has provided crash data that is contrary to motorcyclists' perception that they are in danger of being rear-ended in stopped or slowed traffic jam situations. We also heard testimony from motorcyclists and organizations in support of lane splitting. Finally, AAA and the Oregon Trucking Association testified against the bill. As a result of this input the GAC-MS decided by a 5-2 vote to oppose SB 385 in the name of motorcyclist and motorist safety.