

HB 2314 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows motorcycles and mopeds to travel between lanes of traffic on highways with a designated speed of 50 miles per hour or greater, subject to the following conditions: (1) traffic is stopped or has slowed to 10 miles per hour or less; (2) the motorcycle or moped has two wheels; (3) the rider travels at a speed no more than 10 miles per hour greater than the speed of traffic and operates in a prudent manner that does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic; (4) overtakes vehicle(s) proceeding in the same direction; (5) merges with regular traffic flow once traffic begins moving at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour. Limits applicability in school zones.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 814.240 prohibits operators of motorcycles or mopeds from driving between lanes of travel on public roads. Passing another vehicle in the same lane, or between lanes, is designated as a Class B traffic violation, carrying a presumptive fine of \$265.

The term "lane splitting" refers to the practice of traveling by motorcycle or moped between adjacent lanes of traffic moving in the same direction in order to overtake and pass slower-moving vehicles in the two adjacent lanes. The practice is differentiated from "lane filtering," which involves switching lanes to overtake multiple vehicles in turn within two or more adjacent lanes, or "lane sharing," which describes two motorcycles or mopeds sharing a single lane, either side-by-side or in staggered formation.

Lane splitting became officially a legal practice in California with enactment of Assembly Bill 51 (2016). Prior to that measure being enacted, lane splitting was not neither legal nor illegal in California, but was enforced on a case-by-case basis. While California is the only state that has explicitly legalized lane splitting, 12 other states (Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia) have no traffic laws explicitly prohibiting the practice.