



TO: The Honorable Jim Beall, Chair
Members, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee

FROM: Norwood & Associates

DATE: June 3, 2016

RE: AB 51 (Quirk)—SUPPORT as Amended June 1, 2016

On behalf of our client, **Liberty Mutual Insurance**, we respectfully request your “AYE” vote on AB 51 by Assemblyman Quirk, as amended June 1, 2016. Liberty Mutual Insurance is the third largest property casualty insurer in the United States and offers a wide range of insurance products and services including automobile, homeowners, and commercial automobile.

AB 51 (Quirk) would define “lane splitting” and authorize the California Highway Patrol, in consultation with other interested stakeholders, to develop educational guidelines relative to the practice of lane splitting to ensure motorist and motorcyclist safety.

“Lane splitting” refers to the practice of riding a motorcycle in the same lane as a vehicle traveling in the same direction between clearly marked lanes of traffic. “Lane splitting” is legal in California, as current law does not expressly prohibit the practice. Though it’s technically legal, there are no official guidelines or safety standards to guide drivers on how to safely maneuver motorcycles when “lane splitting.”

Recently, California Highway Patrol (CHP) drafted a set of guidelines and posted them on CHP’s website. However, a discrepancy as to whether or not these guidelines were underground regulations forced CHP to pull the guidelines from its websites. As a result, CHP had to curtail all education and outreach efforts on lane splitting.

AB 51 would remedy this situation by clarifying in statute that the California Highway Patrol does in fact have the authority to develop educational guidelines on lane splitting. Such guidelines will help to ensure our roads are safe and motorists are more informed about motorcycle riders.

For these reasons, Liberty Mutual is proud to support AB 51 (Quirk) and urges your “AYE” vote on this important bill. Please do not hesitate to contact Erin Norwood should you have any questions or would like additional information.

Thank you.

cc: Assemblymember Bill Quirk, Author (Attention Tomasa Duenas)
Erin Riches, Principal Consultant, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Camille Wagner, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Robert Herrell, Legislative Director, California Department of Insurance