

Submitter: G DuBois
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

Once again, the proponents of this legislation are attempting to make lane-filtering (passing between cars on freeways) legal in our state.

Who exactly wants this statute change? Besides motorcyclists, I mean? Why does this keep coming up? After years of trying, it finally got passed last year, but was wisely vetoed by the Governor.
Can't we do away with this idea, once and for all?

Only four states allow "lane-filtering" (passing cars stopped or crawling along because of congestion, and only at slow speed). Only one state allows passing between speeding vehicles, or "lane-splitting": California.
Oregon has allowed "lane sharing" (two abreast) for many years now.

I, for one, do not want motorcycles roaring past me when I'm stuck in traffic. And I do mean "roar," since most motorcycles seem to make an inordinate amount of noise, regardless of their speed. This will happen, quite literally, right at your left elbow! This can be startling, to say the least.

The ONLY safety advantage to lane filtering appears to be the lessened likelihood of a motorcyclist being rear-ended in stop-and-go traffic. (But only on freeways or expressways, not in town.)

Otherwise, it would appear to be very risky. If one car starts to nose into the adjacent lane, you can only hope the cyclist sees it. (Or perhaps it'll be me, opening my car door!)

A study by UC Berkeley showed that 17% of motorcycle accidents involved lane-splitting (ignoring fault).

There is also the frivolous argument that this will reduce congestion. The theory is that motorcycles take (almost) as much space as cars in backed-up traffic, so allowing them to squeeze between cars and then crowd in at the point traffic speeds up supposedly reduces congestion. (How much space does the motorcycle take in the lane once traffic begins to move normally?)

But again, who exactly WANTS this bill, and WHY?

It appears to only be wanted by a minority of drivers. Virtually every one of the supportive comments were submitted by motorcyclists.

What if comments were solicited from a wider audience, such as via the media? How many citizens even know about this proposed legislation? How many members of the

motoring public do you think would want to see this allowed?

I'm guessing that the majority of motorists in Oregon do NOT want to see "lane-filtering" allowed on our roads!

Thank you for your consideration.

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