

Submitter: Jerry Darbyshire
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

SB 422 would improve motorcyclist safety by allowing riders to seek out a safe refuge between lanes of traffic during stop and go situations. I have been a motorcyclist for 57 years and my experience shows that this type of traffic is one of most dangerous situations a rider can find themselves in. If a rider is rear ended there is a high probability of being crushed between 2 vehicles resulting in serious injury. According to a National Highway Traffic Safety report, 'Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near crashes...nearly 80% of crashes and 65% of near crashes involved some form of driver inattention. Studies in California where lane sharing has been allowed for decades show that it's safer for motorcyclists. SB 422 would only permit motorcyclists to travel between lanes under certain conditions and at low speeds. This mitigates concerns about motorcyclists being run over by large trucks or by cars changing lanes. When traffic is below 10mph there is usually no space for lane changes unless another driver slows or stops to allow it. This makes it easy for motorcyclists to safely anticipate problems and avoid them. Law enforcement officers can enforce SB 422 as they do other traffic when these roads are congested with stop and go traffic. Motorcycle officers could enforce the law by patrolling these roads if needed. They are highly skilled and can go wherever another motorcycle goes. Please support SB 422 and increase motorcyclist safety on the described highways.