

Submitter: Hannah Bulla
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB422

Hello! My name is Hannah. I just started out riding a few months ago, and I reside in the Beaverton area.

As a frequent commuter in a busy city, I believe that lane splitting should be legal due to the potential benefits such as reduced congestion and safety precautions associated with this law.

When traffic is moving slowly or at a standstill, lane splitting allows motorcyclists to move through traffic more quickly and safely. This can reduce the risk of rear-end collisions, which are a common cause of motorcycle accidents. By reducing the time that motorcyclists spend idling in traffic, lane splitting can also help reduce air pollution, the risk of overheating both the rider and the motorcycle (if the engine is air-cooled), and congestion can be reduced for roads to allow for a quicker and more efficient commute.

While concerns regarding the safety of lane splitting are understandable, some studies have shown that lane splitting is done safely. As mentioned previously, in addition to rear-end collisions motorcyclists can safely maneuver through traffic to avoid inattentive drivers. I also believe that legalizing lane splitting would help promote safer riding behavior. When lane splitting is legal, motorcyclists are more likely to do it in a responsible and safe manner, rather than engaging in dangerous and reckless behavior. It also allows law enforcement to focus on more serious traffic violations, rather than spending time and resources on enforcing a law that is difficult to enforce.

I would like to conclude this testimony by saying that while the safety of lane splitting depends on other factors such as the flow of traffic and the behavior of other drivers, I believe that motorcyclists should have the option and right to exercise good judgment and caution when deciding whether to lane split. I urge lawmakers to consider legalizing lane splitting for the benefit of all drivers on the road.

Thank you for reading my testimony.