

Submitter: Joseph Stenger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3626
Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Committee:

My name is Joseph Stenger. I am writing in support of HB 3626. I am Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee of MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of experienced volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

To achieve our state goals for reducing emissions, we need more people to shift some of their travel from cars to less-polluting modes such as active transportation. Electric bicycles and scooters are an efficient way to travel. They are easier for someone who may not have a high fitness level to go longer distances, to arrive a little quicker, and to carry heavier weight, for example a parent transporting children. More people biking and rolling means fewer people driving, which means less traffic and shorter travel times for those who do drive, less wear to roads, fewer autos competing for parking spaces, fewer autos to cause crashes, and cleaner air. It's a win all the way around!

HB 3626 sets clear standards of safety for the use of electric bikes, skateboards, scooters, as well as powered wheelchairs used on bike lanes. Making these rules consistent will make enforcement more straightforward. Requiring headgear will reduce injuries from crashes. Requiring battery standards will reduce fires caused by nonstandard batteries.

Mounting an education program will improve safety for riders in bike lanes and improve safety awareness of drivers.

As a cyclist myself, I also support enforcement of high-speed vehicles using bike lanes that do not comply with these regulations, as they endanger all of us. I ask your Aye vote to move HB 3626 out of Committee and to support its passage into law.

Thank you for all your work on our behalf!

Joseph Stenger