

I have been riding motorcycles on the highway and off-road since 1967, in Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Oregon as resident and in every state except Alaska as a visitor. I have ridden in most of Europe since 2007. I very much support lane splitting or sharing, but only California permits it now in the USA. It is nearly universal in Europe, with common-sense restrictions.

When I visit my son in California (Bay Area) I avail myself of lane splitting when traffic becomes stagnant. In San Francisco this situation prevails EVERY DAY during rush hour, and it extends along I-80 all the way to Sacramento. In California it can be done safely within populated regions such as multi-lane urban areas, such as Santa Rosa and Sacramento. I realize that Oregon is only proposing lane sharing on higher speed, multi-lane highways for now, and that's a good start. It takes automobile and truck drivers considerable time to get accustomed to watching for slow-moving motorcycles creeping along between lanes. Even in California where this practice has been encouraged for decades there are still some drivers who resent motorcycles "getting ahead" of them, so one must be wary of obstinate drivers who like to crowd over (or even open doors on occasion). However, I can count on the fingers of both hands the number of times that has made me stop and find a way around such folks. Once drivers come to realize that motorcycles using lane sharing actually speed up traffic movement and do not, in fact, impede drivers, they come to accept the practice. And for those of us risking injury from rear-end collisions from vehicles approaching us too rapidly to stop, being able to squeeze out of harm's way is very, very reassuring.

I hope the legislature supports this proposed law.

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