

Submitter: Austen Brown
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

As both a motorcyclist and physician, I am very focused on rider safety. This bill appropriately addresses my concerns with lane sharing and I fully support it. It is important to offer motorcyclist a way to keep moving forward in heavy traffic to prevent fatigue and hyperthermia on hot days; two scenarios that can lead to poor decision making and potential crashes. Constant stop-and-go traffic for extended periods of time causes excess fatigue on the hand operating the clutch and frequently, there is no place to safely pull-over and rest on the freeway in heavy traffic. Additionally, staying cool on a motorcycle is dependent on evaporative cooling. Air movement (even if at 10-20 mph) is typically enough to stay cool on very hot days when traveling by motorcycle. Motorcyclist do not have access to the AC, fans or a water bottles which make car drivers comfortable when stuck in traffic. Appropriate safety gear (a full helmet, jacket, gloves and boots) is designed to ventilate with air movement and I don't think riders should choose between safety gear and overheating.

It is very important to keep the speeds relatively low when sharing lanes and this bill adequately addresses this issue.

Allowing lane sharing also provides the additional benefits of reducing congestion and emissions and is a very inexpensive way to address these important issues for Oregonians.