

Submitter: Michael Friend
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

Hello to the Senate Committee on Judiciary! I am a long-time motorcycle rider (50 years) and I am in writing in support of SB422. I am asking for your support for this bill as well. As a motorcyclist who has ridden in all sorts of weather and traffic conditions I understand the risks that are out there. This bill is a very conservative bill in that the speeds are very low and there are set conditions a rider is allowed to share lanes. There are great advantages to allowing motorcycles to share lanes. The number one advantage is that it is safer than staying in a lane in traffic. There are studies that demonstrate the safety of lane sharing. With Lane Sharing the rider has greater control over one's safety as opposed to being a sitting duck or being the "meat in the sandwich". Also, there are many riders I know who will not ride their motorcycles on our busy freeways. If they were able to lane share they would ride. As more riders leave their cars at home and ride their motorcycles, there will be less strain on congestion. And finally, a motorcycle is more fuel efficient and pollutes less than an automobile and so there is less air pollution. In the last session, a reason Governor Brown vetoed this bill was because she felt that riders would not obey the law and it would be difficult to enforce. Unfortunately, there are many road users who will not always obey traffic laws. In Portland we no longer have a police traffic division and so many drivers take advantage of that. The greater majority of riders would fully follow the law as written. Very few riders want to put themselves at risk of getting hurt. It is all about riding smart. Thank you for reading this long message. Sincerely yours, Michael Friend, Southeast Portland Resident and Motorcycle Rider.