

Submitter: Kirsten Midura
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

Filtering (aka lane splitting) is one of the easiest ways to protect all Oregonians on the road. Sitting in traffic is extremely dangerous for motorcyclists, as most car drivers are distracted when driving, often using their phones, changing lanes without checking blind spots, etc. Motorcyclists either must sit in traffic hoping they don't get rear ended, or they practice lane splitting safely but illegally. By allowing filtering at slow speeds, you are allowing motorcyclists to legally maneuver in the manner that is safest for them, which will reduce the likelihood of accidents that affect car drivers, as well. Filtering also eases traffic congestion for everyone, as it keeps traffic flowing. It reduces emissions, since fewer vehicles are idling, and it reduces noise pollution, as motorcyclists are able to move on and get to their destination more efficiently. Furthermore, during times of extreme heat, it reduces the likelihood of motorcycles overheating and shutting down, thus causing more traffic.

Please remember that to get a motorcycle license, you must take at least one course and pass an advanced driving test. We are among the safest and most experienced vehicle operators on the road, and the Oregon legislature should acknowledge that we have the experience to know what is in drivers' best interests. Studies also have shown that filtering is the safest option, and states such as California have successfully exercised this practice this for years. It is in all Oregonians best interest to allow filtering. I am happy to provide resources, studies, and further education if you would like to know more. Thank you for your consideration in improving the driving experience for Oregonians.