

Submitter: Eugene Kubovsky
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

Hello!

My name is Eugene Kubovsky. I am motorcycle enthusiast of almost 10 years. I own two motorcycles, have ridden a variety of bikes. I am a part of a non-profit motorcycle organization. Throughout the years I've been riding in groups, small and big, I've been riding solo, and I've been riding with passengers, for thousand miles, and sometimes thousand miles a day.

Motorcycles aren't cars in many respects. Motorcyclists, in contrast to car drivers, are more exposed to outside elements, road and traffic conditions. Motorcyclist do not have the luxury the cars provide, such as reclined seating or air conditioning, nor they can isolate themselves from the many elements of the road such as smog, road debris, dust and smell.

Motorcycles have manual transition - this requires using both hands (clutch and brake) and feet (gear shifting and brake) to operate a motorcycle when moving in the stop-and-go, slow-moving or stale traffic. And unlike cars, bikes have to be balanced when moving at low speed. In other words - slow moving or stale traffic is very tiring, and causes risks associated with fatigue - when constantly operating motorcycle controls, and road imperfections - when a pothole can cause slow moving motorcycle lean or fall in the adjacent lane. This is without mentioning all other potential hazards. For motorcyclist, moving is the key to be safe and be able to keep the bike upright.

One may argue we chose this lifestyle ourselves. Yes, but we did this not for the love of traffic and congestion. We, in fact, chose this lifestyle for the love of open roads, for unmatched experiences and overwhelming feelings or riding in the wind. For friendships and bond we share within motorcyclist community. Unfortunately, for some of us a bike is the only choice they got, and as all other commuters - we do use bikes to commute to work and back home, we do shopping, we go between cities, and states not for leisure, but sometimes for reasons not so exciting.

One of the things we can do to manage the dangers of the congestion and heavy traffic, and to make us safe, is to leave the congestion and heavy traffic as soon as possible. Doesn't mean as fast as possible, just as soon. The sooner we are out, the less exposure we have to all negative factors mentioned above.

Lane splitting increases safety for both, motorcyclist and car drivers, reduces

congestion, and as side effect promotes better awareness for every driver on the road.

And as an additional point - did you know that many motorcyclist take back roads on their way home from work? This also reduces the traffic in the evening hours!

As a motorcycle enthusiast and as a car driver I fully support safe and regulated lane splitting!

With respect!