

Submitter: James Hird
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

Dear Oregon Senate,

I am a 60yr Oregonian, volunteer firefighter and motorcyclist. I support SB 422. Here is why:

I have been in rush-hour traffic in San Jose, Ca and saw motorcycles lane-splitting. Operators were riding slow and quite respectfully between cars. At the time I was shocked that it was legal at all, but even cars were pulling to the edge of their lane to allow motorcyclists by. I was glad to see anyone able to ride to the next exit and escape the traffic jam and the occasional rear-ender caused by the slinky effect (think about that: it makes sense) of stop-n-go traffic.

It was hot out that day. As a motorcyclist I was glad to see them moving versus sitting on hot tarmac in full protective gear.

I am well trained in some pre-hospital care. If I were mobile and could respectfully move through traffic, I may be able to provide Good Samaritan care if there were a traffic collision.

I read through Kate Brown's veto of SB574 reasonings:

If there were no "non-compliance", there would be no need for Law Enforcement. There is always a bad apple.

As a motorcyclist I am constantly aware of the hazards of the dreaded blind spot, and on the lookout for tell-tale behavior.

I admire Kate's wish to prevent serious accidents, but the motorcyclists can only move 10mph faster than 10mph auto traffic.

I disagree with Traffic Safety committee chair Victor Hoffer. I don't know what "full lane cushion around the motorcyclist" he refers to. The distance between a motorcyclist and cars are measured in heartbeats. If you are in a traffic jam, most operators - impaired or not - are moving nowhere except forward - when they can.

I am in support of my lawful motorcyclist's option to split lanes in a respectful manner, keep air moving around me, clear traffic (I know it's not much), render help, and otherwise find no other reason than to take the nearest exit and ride the long and windy road less traveled.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Cheers!

Avid Motorcyclist
Molalla, Oregon