

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

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I support this bill. My only complaint is that it is not more widely applicable to other roads. Common sense dictates that being able to filter slowly through slow moving or stopped vehicular traffic would increase a motorcyclist's safety. I do not condone high speed filtering where the difference in speed between the motorcyclist and other vehicles exceeds 10 miles per hour. Filtering can be done safely at low speeds, and more importantly, low speed differentials between two and four-wheeled vehicles. We should be expanding the legality of lane filtering to include any multi lane road where traffic is stopped at a red light or a stop sign. Motorcyclists are always concerned with becoming sandwiched between two cars due to inattentive drivers. Being able to legally filter through traffic would help with congestion and also improve rider safety.

This bill had bipartisan support and Governor Brown vetoed it citing safety concerns. I agree that safety concerns would dictate if this were a bill allowing all filtering/splitting under any conditions, but this isn't that bill. Motorcyclists should be given the opportunity to show that at least limited filtering is beneficial for all motorists on the road so that we can work towards allowing filtering and splitting in more circumstances. This also has the added benefit of getting car and truck drivers more accustomed to looking for motorcyclists driving between cars during bouts of bad traffic.

Another failure of this bill to pass would be an affront to the tenets of a democratic republic that our society is founded upon. Our representatives supported this bill for passage and it should be law. Let the experiment of democracy run its course and allow motorcyclists this small limited ability to lane filter.

Thank you,
Michael Lee