

Submitter: James W

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: SB422

I moved to Portland two years ago from Los Angeles, CA. As a proficient and responsible motorcyclist, I used California's legal lane-sharing for my daily commute from Pasadena to Culver City, approximately 30 miles each day. It saved me a great deal of time, reduced stress, and I believe also facilitated a safer ride for myself and those around me. There's less chance of rear-ending a car, and less chance of getting rear-ended; two main causes of motorcycle accidents. Sitting in traffic is less safe on a motorcycle than in a car. My motorcycle also had an environmental impact, as it averaged 50 miles per gallon of gasoline. Most commuters in cars travel alone, causing gridlock and congestion – but motorcyclists traveling alone actually reduce congestion. I observed the majority of riders not only adhering to the guidelines, but also found those in cars to be considerate and careful. While it will take Oregon motorists some time to get used to the idea, and be mindful of sharing lanes with motorcyclists, it requires little to no extra effort on the part of motorists. I also believe motorcyclists like myself will make use of Oregon lane-splitting in a manner that follows the law and safety recommendations. Perhaps new rider qualifications could include lessons on lane-sharing, or a waiting period to insure they are proficient before entering the freeway – but disallowing lane-sharing entirely for all riders I think is a mistake. Of course, there will always be knuckleheads—but that's true of anything. I support this measure and feel it is a good first step for the above reasons.