

Submitter: Trevor Polivka
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3542

As a motorcycle rider and instructor, this bill is very important to me because I want to be able to do what will get me home safest within the confines of the law. When motorcycles are forced to be a part of traffic, they are left vulnerable to other road users who are increasingly not paying close attention to the road in front of them, which is it's own problem altogether with its own complex solutions, but a step in the right direction would be to allow motorcyclists to take themselves out of those hazardous situations. I feel that HB 3542 is a step in the right direction.

While I am in favor of the lane filtering that California has, HB 3542 will allow lane filtering to be introduced to motorists who may not be used to motorcycles going between cars. This bill, as written, allows filtering only on our highways and only when traffic is essentially stopped. Highways have much wider lanes than city streets so this extra space will allow for a more gradual introduction to other road users by keeping speeds low and space cushions large. These slow speeds and large space cushions offer a safe environment for road users to share and keep each other safe by practicing good driving habits.

Additionally, this bill would help reduce vehicle emissions because the gas that would've been used by motorcycles idling can be used to propel them through traffic. By allowing motorcycles to filter through traffic, congestion will be reduced and allow other road users to get to their destinations more quickly, which also uses less fuel in the process. In increasingly densifying areas, this bill will help improve air quality and help keep Oregon green.