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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3542

As traffic congestion worsens and road safety remains a top concern, it is time to take a clear, informed step toward protecting motorcyclists and improving mobility: legalizing lane filtering.

Lane filtering—the practice of motorcycles moving between lanes of slow or stopped traffic—is a proven method to reduce collisions, protect riders, and ease congestion. In states where filtering remains illegal, riders are forced to sit in traffic, vulnerable to rear-end collisions from distracted drivers. Unlike car occupants, motorcyclists have no external protection. Even low-speed impacts can be fatal.

Data from a 2015 UC Berkeley study shows that motorcyclists who filter through heavy traffic are significantly less likely to be rear-ended and suffer fewer serious injuries. Internationally, countries like Australia, the UK, and France have legalized filtering with great success, regulating it through clear speed limits and safety guidelines.

Legalizing lane filtering does not mean endorsing reckless riding. It means giving motorcyclists a safe, predictable option in dense traffic—just as California has done. With proper education and enforcement, filtering becomes a safety tool, not a risk.

Beyond safety, lane filtering helps reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. Allowing motorcycles to move through traffic rather than occupy full lanes improves flow for all vehicles. It's a small shift with a big impact.

Continuing to prohibit lane filtering leaves motorcyclists exposed and traffic less efficient. Legalizing and regulating it is a smart, modern, and life-saving solution. We urge lawmakers to support this bill and make our roads safer for everyone.