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

Please disregard my previous submission. I got a chance to put some thought into it and the following is my new submission.

Our roads are becoming more congested, and motorcyclists are paying the price for outdated traffic laws. In states where lane filtering remains illegal, riders are exposed to increasing danger—and doing nothing about it comes at a cost we can no longer ignore.

Every year, motorcyclists are seriously injured or killed while sitting in stopped or slow-moving traffic—not from speeding or reckless riding, but from being hit while doing everything right. Without the ability to filter forward between lanes, riders are trapped between vehicles, often in the blind spots of distracted drivers. Rear-end collisions that would be minor in a car can be catastrophic on a motorcycle.

Beyond the physical risk, motorcyclists are often forced to make unsafe decisions in real-time—like swerving between lanes or attempting risky evasive maneuvers—because they don't have a legal, predictable way to protect themselves. This legal uncertainty creates confusion for everyone on the road, raising tension between drivers and riders and increasing the likelihood of conflict.

Prohibiting lane filtering also undermines emergency preparedness. In traffic jams or gridlock situations—especially in urban areas or during evacuations—motorcycles are unable to move safely or help first responders because they're stuck in the same bottleneck. Filtering is not just a convenience—it's a way for small, maneuverable vehicles to stay mobile and responsive in critical moments.

Doing nothing also sends the wrong message: that we are willing to accept avoidable deaths and injuries because we're unwilling to modernize our laws. Other countries and states have shown that lane filtering, when properly regulated, improves safety, reduces tension on the road, and even saves lives. Refusing to act leaves riders in harm's way and communities without a clear, enforceable framework.

The time for hesitation is over. A lane filtering bill isn't about special treatment—it's about recognizing the reality motorcyclists face and giving them a legal, controlled option to avoid danger. The cost of inaction is measured in injuries, fatalities, and missed opportunities to make our roads smarter and safer.

We call on lawmakers to take this seriously. Support the bill. Protect riders. Don't let another preventable crash be the price of standing still.