

SSB 5623 - S AMD 104

By Senators Sheldon, Hargrove, Braun, King, Hasegawa

ADOPTED 3/5/2015

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 46.61.608 and 2013 c 139 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) All motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane and no
6 motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any
7 motorcycle of the full use of a lane. This subsection shall not apply
8 to motorcycles operated two abreast in a single lane.

9 (2)(a) The operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass
10 in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken, except on
11 the left-hand side of a vehicle traveling in the left-most lane of
12 traffic on a numbered state highway identified in chapter 47.17 RCW
13 that has two or more lanes of traffic in each direction if the
14 operator of the motorcycle is traveling at a rate of speed no more
15 than ten miles per hour over the speed of traffic flow and not more
16 than twenty-five miles per hour. ((However, this subsection shall not
17 apply)) When the operator of a motorcycle overtakes and passes a
18 pedestrian or bicyclist ((while maintaining)), the operator shall
19 maintain a safe passing distance of at least three feet.

20 (b) Any operator of a motor vehicle that intentionally impedes or
21 attempts to prevent any operator of a motorcycle from operating his
22 or her motorcycle as permitted under this subsection is guilty of a
23 traffic infraction.

24 (3) No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic
25 or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

26 (4) Motorcycles shall not be operated more than two abreast in a
27 single lane.

28 (5) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not apply to
29 police officers in the performance of their official duties.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Section 1 of this act expires July 31,
31 2017."

SSB 5623 - S AMD 104

By Senators Sheldon, Hargrove, Braun, King, Hasegawa

ADOPTED 3/5/2015

1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "traffic;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 46.61.608;
3 prescribing penalties; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Removes the authorization for a motorcycle to operate between lanes of traffic and rows of vehicles. Limits a motorcycle operator to passing in the same lane as a vehicle it is overtaking to passing on the left-hand side of the vehicle and only in the left-most lane of traffic on a state highway or interstate with two or more lanes of traffic in each direction. The motorcycle may only pass on the left-hand side when the motorcycle is operating under twenty-five miles per hour and not traveling more than ten miles per hour over the flow of traffic.

--- END ---