
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5623

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon, Angel, Miloscia, Becker, Warnick, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the operation of motorcycles on
2 roadways laned for traffic; amending RCW 46.61.608; prescribing
3 penalties; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.608 and 2013 c 139 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act expires July 31,
12 2017.

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