
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) The operator of a motorcycle (~~shall not~~) may overtake and
12 pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.
13 (~~However, this subsection shall not apply~~) When the operator of a
14 motorcycle overtakes and passes a pedestrian or bicyclist (~~while~~
15 ~~maintaining~~), the operator shall maintain a safe passing distance of
16 at least three feet.

17 (3)(a) No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of
18 traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles unless the
19 operator of a motorcycle is traveling at a rate of speed no more than
20 ten miles per hour over the speed of traffic flow and not more than
21 twenty-five miles per hour.

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

7 (5) Subsection(~~s~~(~~2~~and)) (3) of this section shall not apply
8 to police officers in the performance of their official duties.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act expires July 31,
10 2017.

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