

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5622

As of February 4, 2022

Title: An act relating to modifying the operation of motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic.

Brief Description: Modifying the operation of motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic.

Sponsors: Senators Randall, Warnick, Gildon, Lovelett, Nguyen, Nobles, Sheldon and Short.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/07/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows the operator of a motorcycle, under certain conditions, to overtake and pass in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken, or operate between lanes of traffic.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Generally, motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane on a highway; these vehicles are subject to certain operational benefits and limitations. Motorcyclists may operate two abreast in a single lane. An operator of a motorcycle may not pass a vehicle in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken, unless the vehicle is a bicyclist.

A motorcycle may not be operated between lanes of traffic, a practice commonly referred to as lane-splitting, lane-sharing, or lane-filtering. California is the only state in the U.S. that allows lane-splitting.

Summary of Bill: The operator of a motorcycle may overtake and pass in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken, or operate between lanes of traffic. The operator of a motorcycle may only pass in the same lane or between lanes of traffic when the motorcycle

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is traveling at a speed of 35 miles per hour or less and not more than 10 miles per hour over the speed of traffic flow.

It is a traffic infraction for an operator of a motor vehicle to intentionally impede or attempt to prevent a motorcyclist from operating as permitted under the bill.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.