
HOUSE BILL 1254

State of Washington 67th Legislature 2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Abbarno, Sutherland, and Goodman

Read first time 01/18/21. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving motorcycle safety by authorizing the
2 use of the right shoulder of limited access roadways; and amending
3 RCW 46.61.608.

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 overtake and pass in
12 the same lane or shoulder 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 a safe passing distance of at least three feet.

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

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

20 (5) Motorcycles may travel in the right shoulder of a limited
21 access roadway when traffic is stopped or when the average speed of

1 the vehicles on the travel lanes of the limited access roadway is 25
2 miles per hour or less, subject to the following restrictions:

3 (a) A motorcycle may not use a right shoulder at a speed greater
4 than 10 miles per hour faster than the speed of traffic in the lane
5 adjacent to the shoulder;

6 (b) A motorcycle is not permitted to ride past an exit ramp when
7 traveling on the shoulder of a limited access highway: The motorcycle
8 must either exit the shoulder and reenter the traffic lanes of the
9 limited access highway when approaching the exit ramp or, when the
10 exit ramp is reached, proceed down the exit ramp; and

11 (c) Motorcycles may not be operated more than one abreast on a
12 right shoulder.

13 (6) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not apply to
14 police officers in the performance of their official duties.

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