

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5401

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As of February 14, 2023

**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, MacEwen, Wilson, J., Boehnke, Frame, Keiser, Nguyen, Rolfes and Wilson, C..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/16/23.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

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

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Brandon Popovac (786-7465)

**Background:** Motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a lane on a highway, subject to certain allowances and limitations. Motorcyclists may operate two abreast in a single lane. A motorcyclist may not pass a vehicle in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken, unless the motorcyclist is overtaking and passing a pedestrian or bicyclist at a distance of at least three feet. A motorcycle may not be operated between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles, a practice commonly referred to as lane splitting, lane filtering, or lane sharing.

**Summary of Bill:** The operator of a motorcycle may overtake and pass in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken. The operator of a motorcycle may only travel between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles when the motorcycle is traveling at a

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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 act.

**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.