

SECTION 1.

Section 21658.1 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

21658.1.

~~(a) A motorcycle, as defined in Section 400, that has two wheels in contact with the ground may be driven between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane, including both divided and undivided streets, roads, or highways, if both of the following conditions are present:~~

~~(1) The motorcycle is not driven at a speed of more than 50 miles per hour.~~

~~(2) The motorcycle is not driven more than 15 miles per hour faster than the speed of traffic moving in the same direction.~~

~~(b) This section does not authorize a motorcycle to be driven in contravention of other laws relating to the safe operation of a vehicle.~~

*(a) For purposes of this section, "lane splitting" means driving a motorcycle, as defined in Section 400, that has two wheels in contact with the ground between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane, including both divided and undivided streets, roads, or highways.*

*(b) The California Department of Highway Patrol may develop educational guidelines relating to lane splitting in a manner that would ensure the safety of the motorcyclist and the drivers and passengers of the surrounding vehicles.*

*(c) In developing the guidelines pursuant to this section, the department shall consult with agencies and organizations with an interest in road safety and motorcycle behavior, including, but not limited to, all of the following:*

*(1) The Department of Motor Vehicles*

*(2) The Department of Transportation*

*(3) The Office of Traffic Safety*

*(4) A motorcycle organization focused on motorcyclist safety.*