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SENATE BILL 5623

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Angel, Miloscia, Becker, Warnick, and Conway

Read first time 01/26/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the operation of motorcycles on  
2 roadways laned for traffic; amending RCW 46.61.608; and prescribing  
3 penalties.

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 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 unless the operator of  
18 a motorcycle is traveling at a rate of speed no more than ten miles  
19 per hour over the speed of traffic flow and not more than thirty-five  
20 miles per hour. Any operator of a motor vehicle that intentionally  
21 impedes or attempts to prevent any operator of a motorcycle from

1 operating his or her motorcycle as permitted under this subsection is  
2 guilty of a traffic infraction.

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

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

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