

SB 694 - Lane Filtering - FAQ

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Q. What is Lane Splitting?

A. Lane Splitting is when a motorcycle rides safely between lanes at a speed differential of 10 mph or less, usually when traffic speed is 30 mph or less. Lane Splitting is legal in most countries in Europe and California.

Q. What is Lane Filtering?

A. Lane Filtering is when a motorcycle rides safely between lanes at a speed differential of 10 mph or less when traffic is stopped or traveling at 10 mph or less.



Lane Splitting/Filtering

Q. Why is this a safety issue for motorcyclists?

A. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 40% of all motor vehicle accidents are rear-end accidents. Under current Oregon law, motorcyclists have to ride between automobiles and trucks during potential rear-end accident situations which can result in serious injuries and fatalities even at low speeds due to the motorcyclist being pinched between two vehicles (“pinch point”); motorcyclists are often forced to place themselves in the “blind spot” in the lane where drivers cannot see them.

Q. Why is Lane Splitting/Filtering Safer?

A. Providing motorcyclists with the option of safely riding between lanes removes them from the “blind spot” and places them in full view of the driver’s side mirror and provides them with a safe alternative in “pinch point” situations.

A recent study of 7,836 motorcycle accidents in California by UC Berkeley and the California Highway Patrol compared lane-splitting accidents to all other motorcycle accidents. In lane splitting accidents there were: **55% fewer fatalities; 45% fewer head injuries; 21% fewer neck injuries; 32% fewer torso injuries; and 12% fewer arm/leg injuries.**

Q. Why is Lane Splitting/Filtering More Efficient?

A. Lane Splitting reduces traffic congestion during traffic stoppages and slowdowns by allowing motorcyclists to filter through traffic safely and efficiently. It also reduces the number of automobiles on the road and reduces carbon emissions by encouraging the use of more fuel-efficient alternative vehicles.

Q. What is SB 694?

A. SB 694 allows for lane filtering only on freeways and highways when traffic is completely stopped or traveling 10 mph or less and then only at a speed differential of 10 mph or less. It removes motorcyclists from the “pinch point” in vulnerable stop-and-go traffic situations.