

HB23-1059: Motorcycle Lane Splitting Study

Report from the Safe Transportation Research & Education Center, University of California Berkeley:

- Motorcycle Lane-splitting and Safety in California
- Conclusion: "Lane-splitting is legal and is widely practiced by motorcyclists in California. Of the almost 6,000 collision-involved motorcyclists we studied, nearly 1,000 were lane-splitting at the time of their collision. When we compared motorcyclists who were lane-splitting with those who were not, we could see that the lane-splitting riders were notably different. Compared with other motorcyclists, lane-splitting motorcyclists were more often riding on weekdays and during commute hours, were using better helmets, and were traveling at lower speeds. Lane-splitting riders were also less likely to have been using alcohol and less likely to have been carrying a passenger. Lane-splitting motorcyclists were much less often injured during their collisions. They were considerably less likely to suffer head injury, torso injury, extremity injury, and fatal injury than riders who were not lane-splitting."

There are 5 states where lane splitting is legal: California, Utah, Montana, Arizona, Hawaii

Utah Law: Legalized in May 2019. Motorcycles can drive in between lanes of traffic when:

- The speed limit on the road is 45 mph or less, and never on freeways.
- The road has 2 or more adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel
- There are stopped vehicles (a red light, stop sign, etc.)
- Motorcycles must keep their speed at 15 mph or lower when lane filtering
- The movement can be made safely

California Law: As of 2017, motorcyclists may drive between lanes of traffic when:

- The flow of traffic is 40 mph or less,
- They do not exceed 10 mph faster than the vehicles surrounding them.
- The movement can be made safely

Arizona Law: As of 2020, motorcyclists may drive between lanes of traffic when:

- Traffic is stopped
- The speed limit is 45 mph or less
- The biker is not traveling faster than 15 mph

Montana Law: As of 2021, motorcyclists may drive between lanes of traffic when:

- Traffic is slow or stopped
- Biker is not traveling faster than 20mph
- Conditions are safe to do so

Hawaii Law: As of 2018, motorcyclists may:

- Use the shoulder of the road to pass stopped traffic on roads with at least two lanes of traffic.
- Motorcyclists may not travel between two lanes on narrow roads