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Oregon has two lane splitting bills and one that allows a motorcyclist to pass on the shoulder when traffic is slowed or stopped.

I understand that this is a common practice in Italy but not so much other European countries.

Anyone want to share what they know about passing on the shoulder?

The bill (House Bill 2512) has a public hearing set for next Wednesday. Here's a link to the bill:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2512/Introduced>

Any help is appreciated. Thanks everyone!

VERMONT

Vermont law concerning Passing On The Right states in part "In no event may a vehicle be passed by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway"

~Paul Graves

MARYLAND

Lane sharing/splitting/filtering is only "tolerated", meaning it is not legal, but not specifically illegal, in the US in California. I understand the practice is widespread in the UK. Never heard anything specific about passing on the shoulder. Honestly I didn't know there was a difference.

My read of the bill seems to indicate it is lane sharing but on the shoulder. In Maryland passing or driving on the shoulder is illegal and I cannot imagine a scenario when there would be an advantage to it, or if permitted would not be used as an excuse to split lanes.

That's just my 2 cents. Have a super rest of the day!

~Phil Sause

MICHIGAN

Passing on the shoulder is a recipe for other problems IMO.

~Chad Teachout

MARYLAND

Ditto.

~Phil Sause

FLORIDA

It's not legal for any vehicle to pass on the shoulder in Florida. I can only see it causing more crashes if they allowed it.

~Edith Peters

CALIFORNIA

Michele,

You and I have spoken re lane splitting in California, so suffice it to say that;

- 1) It is allowed in California and,
- 2) According to our data (8000 collisions studied)we have found it to be safe when done prudently.

While drafting guidelines for lane splitting, we did consider passing on the shoulder. We ruled it out for several practical reasons, including but not limited to:

- 1) Current state law prohibits shoulder passing.
- 2) Hazardous debris (dead animals, tire treads, glass, etc.) tends to migrate to the shoulders (CHP spends thousands of dollars per annum replacing tires and repairing operational damage to patrol vehicles)
- 3) Traffic often backs up in California due to emergencies which are occurring on the freeway. Emergency vehicles need unhindered use the shoulders in order to respond to these incidents and restore the flow of traffic.

Hope this helps.

~Mark Pope

RHODE ISLAND

DITTO!

RI does not allow it.

Respectfully,

~Despina Metakos

KANSAS

Kansas does not either

~Norraine Wingfield

VIRGINIA

Michele, here is VA it is illegal besides what some motorcyclists think!!!

~Bruce Biondo

CONNECTICUT

Can't do it here in CT, wouldn't want to travel in the breakdown lane anyways, recipe for going down, sand, debris, etc.

~Nicholas Just

TENNESSEE

Tennessee does not allow either

~John Milliken

ILLINOIS

No can do in Illinois.

~Terry Redman

IDAHO

It's not legal in Idaho. I've also heard it called "white lining." Mark Pope's response succinctly explains why it was not considered in California and should not be elsewhere.

~Sunshine Beer

RHODE ISLAND

Is the SMSA compiling a list of the responses? I would like to see a summary by State, including the commentary, not just the Y/N if possible.

This issue has just come up in RI and I would like to be able to articulate the national perspective as well as our own.

Thank you in advance!

~Despina Metakos

MICHIGAN

I wouldn't want to take/drive a motorcycle or car onto the shoulder here in Michigan either. Too much debris, tires, garbage, road kill, etc.

Current Michigan Vehicle Code says:

257.637 Overtaking and passing on right of another vehicle; conditions; violation as civil infraction.
Sec. 637.

(1) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only if 1 or more of the following conditions exist:

(a) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn.

(b) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles of sufficient width for 2 or more lines of moving vehicles in each direction and when the vehicles are moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic.

(c) Upon a 1-way street, or upon a roadway on which traffic is restricted to 1 direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstructions and of sufficient width for 2 or more lines of moving

vehicles and when the vehicles are moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic.
(2) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting the overtaking and passing in safety. The driver of a vehicle shall not overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.
(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

~Chad Teachout

IDAHO

I agree.

~Sunshine Beer

OREGON

That's a great idea Despina. I know GHSA keeps lists like this.

Thanks everyone, for the feedback.

~Michele O'Leary

MINNESOTA

Both lane splitting and dynamic shoulders are illegal in Minnesota for motorcycles.

~Bill Shaffer

MARYLAND

After reading the responses it is my opinion that trying to get a bill in to pass on the shoulder is a "foot in the door" attempt to at some point in time make the case for Lane Sharing. It should be opposed.

As I previously the practice of Lane Sharing is "tolerated" in CA. This "privilege" has been abused of late causing the ChiP's (Ponch and John) long supporters of the practice to issue "guidelines" for it. In my experience this is the first indicator that lane sharing may soon be illegal in CA as well.

Just my 2 cents.

~Phil Sause

OREGON

Hey Phil.

Don't know if you heard but California had to pull their guidelines. One citizen complained that it was a recommendation by CHP and CHP can't do recommendations. Here's the scoop:

<http://touch.latimes.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-80869659/>

There is a public hearing on our "shoulder use" bill Wed. afternoon. I'll send out a link to watch or listen to the hearing by the end of the week.

Washington has bills filed on lane splitting (not about using the shoulder but between lanes) as well. The Policy & Planning Committee has lane splitting on the radar for a SMSA position statement. However, the committee has not had a chance to discuss it yet.

Stay tuned.

~**Michele O'Leary**

IDAHO

Michele (and Phil),

To follow up on the lane splitting recommendations in California, while they have been removed from CHP's website, those recommendations are included in the new CMSP entry-level rider training curriculum.

~**Stacey Ax Axmaker**