

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SB 5622

Modifying the operation of motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic
(2022 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that SB 5622 would likely result in some motorcyclists overtaking and passing a vehicle in the same lane and operating between lanes of traffic in specified circumstances. However, since it is not well researched whether this would impact traffic collisions, the pathway to health impacts could not be completed.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Randall, Warnick, Gildon, Lovelett, Nguyen, Sheldon, Short

Summary of Bill:

- Allows motorcycles to overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle overtaken.
- Allows a motorcycle to operate between lanes of traffic or between adjacent rows of vehicles if the motorcycle operator is traveling no more than 10 miles per hour (mph) over the speed of traffic flow and no more than 35 mph.
- Adds a traffic infraction if an operator of a motor vehicle intentionally impedes or prevents a motorcycle from operating as the law permits.
- Strikes specific language requiring a motorcycle operator to maintain a passing distance of 3 feet when overtaking a pedestrian or bicyclist.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence for provisions in SB 5622:

- **Informed assumption** that allowing motorcyclists to overtake and pass a vehicle in the same lane and to operate between lanes of traffic in specified circumstances will result in some motorcyclists doing so. This assumption is based on information shared by key informants representing motorcyclists, Washington State Patrol, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and Washington State Departments of Licensing and Transportation.
- **Not well researched** whether lane-splitting/sharing/filtering may impact traffic collisions. Since this relationship is not well researched, the pathway to health impacts could not be completed.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2022-03-SB5622.pdf>

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