



KATE BROWN
Governor

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Peter Courtney
President of the Senate
S-201 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Speaker of the House
H-269 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 574

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek,

Pursuant to Article V, section 15b(1) of the Oregon Constitution, I am returning Enrolled Senate Bill 574 unsigned and disapproved.

This bill would allow a person operating a motorcycle to travel between lanes of traffic, under certain conditions and in specific circumstances. Some of the conditions set forth in the bill include the requirement that traffic is either stopped or has slowed to a speed of ten miles per hour or less, that the motorcyclist travels between lanes at no more than ten miles per hour above the speed of traffic, and that the motorcyclist does not impede normal movement of traffic. This practice, known as “lane filtering,” is currently unlawful—as it is in many other states—due to legitimate public safety concerns.

While I appreciate that SB 574 is more tailored than previous attempts to legalize lane filtering, I have several concerns with the bill as currently drafted, particularly related to public safety and noncompliance with the proposed conditions, which prevent me from approving it. First, many stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and members of the public, remain concerned that lane filtering is unsafe for both the motorcyclists and the drivers sharing the road, due to the serious injuries and death that commonly result from motorcycle-involved accidents. Second, although the bill proposes conditions with which a motorcyclist must comply (such as a maximum speed at which motorcyclists can travel between lanes), I remain worried that some will not adhere to these conditions.

Based on these concerns, I am returning SB 574 unsigned and disapproved.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

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