

SENATE BILL 298

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54 and Title 55, relative to operation of motorcycles on public highways.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, on interstate highways and limited access multilane divided highways where the posted speed limit is fifty miles per hour (50 mph) or more, if the speed of traffic moving in the same direction is twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph) or less, then the operator of a motorcycle that has two (2) wheels in contact with the ground may travel between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane. A motorcycle may be operated pursuant to this subsection (a) at a rate no more than ten miles per hour (10 mph) faster than the flow of traffic.

(b) A person operating a vehicle that is adjacent to or near a motorcycle traveling between rows of stopped or moving vehicles pursuant to subsection (a), and the person operating the motorcycle, shall exercise due care and obey all traffic laws, applicable rules of the road, and laws relating to the safe operation of the vehicle or motorcycle.

(c) The operation of a vehicle between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane on a public road, street, or highway other than a motorcycle authorized on interstate highways and limited access multilane divided highways pursuant to subsection (a) is an offense punishable as a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.