TRAFFIC CODE AMENDMENTS
2019 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Walt Brooks
Senate Sponsor:
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill amends provisions of the Traffic Code to allow lane splitting by a motorcycle.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
 defines lane splitting;
• allows lane splitting if a motorcycle is overtaking a vehicle that is stopped in the
same lane of travel and there are two or more adjacent traffic lanes in the same
direction of travel; and
 makes technical changes.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
41-6a-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapters 166 and 205
41-6a-704, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412
41-6a-710, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412

28	Section 1. Section 41-6a-102 is amended to read:
29	41-6a-102. Definitions.
30	As used in this chapter:
31	(1) "Alley" means a street or highway intended to provide access to the rear or side of
32	lots or buildings in urban districts and not intended for through vehicular traffic.
33	(2) "All-terrain type I vehicle" means the same as that term is defined in Section
34	41-22-2.
35	(3) "Authorized emergency vehicle" includes:
36	(a) fire department vehicles;
37	(b) police vehicles;
38	(c) ambulances; and
39	(d) other publicly or privately owned vehicles as designated by the commissioner of the
40	Department of Public Safety.
41	(4) "Autocycle" means the same as that term is defined in Section $53-3-102$.
42	(5) (a) "Bicycle" means a wheeled vehicle:
43	(i) propelled by human power by feet or hands acting upon pedals or cranks;
44	(ii) with a seat or saddle designed for the use of the operator;
45	(iii) designed to be operated on the ground; and
46	(iv) whose wheels are not less than 14 inches in diameter.
47	(b) "Bicycle" includes an electric assisted bicycle.
48	(c) "Bicycle" does not include scooters and similar devices.
49	(6) (a) "Bus" means a motor vehicle:
50	(i) designed for carrying more than 15 passengers and used for the transportation of
51	persons; or
52	(ii) designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.
53	(b) "Bus" does not include a taxicab.
54	(7) (a) "Circular intersection" means an intersection that has an island, generally
55	circular in design, located in the center of the intersection where traffic passes to the right of
56	the island.
57	(b) "Circular intersection" includes:
58	(i) roundabouts;

59	(ii) rotaries; and
60	(iii) traffic circles.
61	(8) "Class 1 electric assisted bicycle" means an electric assisted bicycle described in
62	Subsection (17)(d)(i).
63	(9) "Class 2 electric assisted bicycle" means an electric assisted bicycle described in
64	Subsection (17)(d)(ii).
65	(10) "Class 3 electric assisted bicycle" means an electric assisted bicycle described in
66	Subsection (17)(d)(iii).
67	(11) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.
68	(12) "Controlled-access highway" means a highway, street, or roadway:
69	(a) designed primarily for through traffic; and
70	(b) to or from which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no
71	legal right of access, except at points as determined by the highway authority having
72	jurisdiction over the highway, street, or roadway.
73	(13) "Crosswalk" means:
74	(a) that part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the
75	lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from:
76	(i) (A) the curbs; or
77	(B) in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway; and
78	(ii) in the absence of a sidewalk on one side of the roadway, that part of a roadway
79	included within the extension of the lateral lines of the existing sidewalk at right angles to the
80	centerline; or
81	(b) any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for
82	pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.
83	(14) "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.
84	(15) "Direct supervision" means oversight at a distance within which:
85	(a) visual contact is maintained; and
86	(b) advice and assistance can be given and received.
87	(16) "Divided highway" means a highway divided into two or more roadways by:
88	(a) an unpaved intervening space;
89	(b) a physical barrier; or

90	(c) a clearly indicated dividing section constructed to impede vehicular traffic.
91	(17) "Electric assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with an electric motor that:
92	(a) has a power output of not more than 750 watts;
93	(b) has fully operable pedals on permanently affixed cranks;
94	(c) is fully operable as a bicycle without the use of the electric motor; and
95	(d) is one of the following:
96	(i) an electric assisted bicycle equipped with a motor or electronics that:
97	(A) provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling; and
98	(B) ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per
99	hour;
100	(ii) an electric assisted bicycle equipped with a motor or electronics that:
101	(A) may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle; and
102	(B) is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20
103	miles per hour; or
104	(iii) an electric assisted bicycle equipped with a motor or electronics that:
105	(A) provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling;
106	(B) ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per
107	hour; and
108	(C) is equipped with a speedometer.
109	(18) (a) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a self-balancing device
110	with:
111	(i) two nontandem wheels in contact with the ground;
112	(ii) a system capable of steering and stopping the unit under typical operating
113	conditions;
114	(iii) an electric propulsion system with average power of one horsepower or 750 watts;
115	(iv) a maximum speed capacity on a paved, level surface of 12.5 miles per hour; and
116	(v) a deck design for a person to stand while operating the device.
117	(b) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" does not include a wheelchair.
118	(19) "Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical mixture commonly
119	used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion and that contains any oxidizing and
120	combustive units or other ingredients in proportions, quantities, or packing so that an ignition

121 by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonator of any part of the compound or mixture 122 may cause a sudden generation of highly heated gases, and the resultant gaseous pressures are 123 capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects or of causing death or serious bodily injury. 124 125 (20) "Farm tractor" means a motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm 126 implement, for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry. 127 (21) "Flammable liquid" means a liquid that has a flashpoint of 100 degrees F. or less, 128 as determined by a tagliabue or equivalent closed-cup test device. 129 (22) "Freeway" means a controlled-access highway that is part of the interstate system 130 as defined in Section 72-1-102. 131 (23) "Gore area" means the area delineated by two solid white lines that is between a 132 continuing lane of a through roadway and a lane used to enter or exit the continuing lane 133 including similar areas between merging or splitting highways. 134 (24) "Gross weight" means the weight of a vehicle without a load plus the weight of 135 any load on the vehicle.

(25) "Highway" means the entire width between property lines of every way or place of
any nature when any part of it is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for vehicular
travel.

139 (26) "Highway authority" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-1-102.

(27) (a) "Intersection" means the area embraced within the prolongation or connection
of the lateral curblines, or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two or
more highways which join one another.

143 (b) Where a highway includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart:

(i) every crossing of each roadway of the divided highway by an intersecting highwayis a separate intersection; and

(ii) if the intersecting highway also includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, thenevery crossing of two roadways of the highways is a separate intersection.

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(c) "Intersection" does not include the junction of an alley with a street or highway.

- (28) "Island" means an area between traffic lanes or at an intersection for control ofvehicle movements or for pedestrian refuge designated by:
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(a) pavement markings, which may include an area designated by two solid yellow

152	lines surrounding the perimeter of the area;
153	(b) channelizing devices;
154	(c) curbs;
155	(d) pavement edges; or
156	(e) other devices.
157	(29) "Lane splitting" means, when operating a motorcycle other than an autocycle, the
158	act of overtaking and passing another vehicle in the same direction of travel in the same lane.
159	[(29)] (30) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is as defined in
160	Section 53-1-102.
161	[(30)] (31) "Limited access highway" means a highway:
162	(a) that is designated specifically for through traffic; and
163	(b) over, from, or to which neither owners nor occupants of abutting lands nor other
164	persons have any right or easement, or have only a limited right or easement of access, light,
165	air, or view.
166	[(31)] (32) "Local highway authority" means the legislative, executive, or governing
167	body of a county, municipal, or other local board or body having authority to enact laws
168	relating to traffic under the constitution and laws of the state.
169	[(32)] (33) (a) "Low-speed vehicle" means a four wheeled electric motor vehicle that:
170	(i) is designed to be operated at speeds of not more than 25 miles per hour; and
171	(ii) has a capacity of not more than four passengers, including the driver.
172	(b) "Low-speed vehicle" does not include a golfcart or an off-highway vehicle.
173	[(33)] (34) "Metal tire" means a tire, the surface of which in contact with the highway
174	is wholly or partly of metal or other hard nonresilient material.
175	[(34)] (35) (a) "Mini-motorcycle" means a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle that has a
176	seat or saddle that is less than 24 inches from the ground as measured on a level surface with
177	properly inflated tires.
178	(b) "Mini-motorcycle" does not include a moped or a motor assisted scooter.
179	(c) "Mini-motorcycle" does not include a motorcycle that is:
180	(i) designed for off-highway use; and
181	(ii) registered as an off-highway vehicle under Section 41-22-3.
182	[(35)] <u>(36)</u> "Mobile home" means:

183	(a) a trailer or semitrailer that is:
184	(i) designed, constructed, and equipped as a dwelling place, living abode, or sleeping
185	place either permanently or temporarily; and
186	(ii) equipped for use as a conveyance on streets and highways; or
187	(b) a trailer or a semitrailer whose chassis and exterior shell is designed and
188	constructed for use as a mobile home, as defined in Subsection [(35)] (36)(a), but that is
189	instead used permanently or temporarily for:
190	(i) the advertising, sale, display, or promotion of merchandise or services; or
191	(ii) any other commercial purpose except the transportation of property for hire or the
192	transportation of property for distribution by a private carrier.
193	[(36)] (37) (a) "Moped" means a motor-driven cycle having:
194	(i) pedals to permit propulsion by human power; and
195	(ii) a motor that:
196	(A) produces not more than two brake horsepower; and
197	(B) is not capable of propelling the cycle at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour on
198	level ground.
199	(b) If an internal combustion engine is used, the displacement may not exceed 50 cubic
200	centimeters and the moped shall have a power drive system that functions directly or
201	automatically without clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.
202	(c) "Moped" includes a motor assisted scooter.
203	(d) "Moped" does not include an electric assisted bicycle.
204	[(37)] (38) (a) "Motor assisted scooter" means a self-propelled device with:
205	(i) at least two wheels in contact with the ground;
206	(ii) a braking system capable of stopping the unit under typical operating conditions;
207	(iii) a gas or electric motor not exceeding 40 cubic centimeters;
208	(iv) either:
209	(A) a deck design for a person to stand while operating the device; or
210	(B) a deck and seat designed for a person to sit, straddle, or stand while operating the
211	device; and
212	(v) a design for the ability to be propelled by human power alone.
213	(b) "Motor assisted scooter" does not include an electric assisted bicycle.

214	[(38)] (39) (a) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle
215	which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated
216	upon rails.
217	(b) "Motor vehicle" does not include vehicles moved solely by human power,
218	motorized wheelchairs, an electric personal assistive mobility device, an electric assisted
219	bicycle, or a personal delivery device, as defined in Section 41-6a-1119.
220	[(39)] <u>(40)</u> "Motorcycle" means:
221	(a) a motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider
222	and designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground; or
223	(b) an autocycle.
224	[(40)] (41) (a) "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, motor scooter, moped,
225	motor assisted scooter, and every motorized bicycle having:
226	(i) an engine with less than 150 cubic centimeters displacement; or
227	(ii) a motor that produces not more than five horsepower.
228	(b) "Motor-driven cycle" does not include:
229	(i) an electric personal assistive mobility device; or
230	(ii) an electric assisted bicycle.
231	[(41)] (42) "Off-highway implement of husbandry" means the same as that term is
232	defined under Section 41-22-2.
233	[(42)] (43) "Off-highway vehicle" means the same as that term is defined under Section
234	41-22-2.
235	[(43)] (44) "Operator" means a person who is in actual physical control of a vehicle.
236	[(44)] (45) (a) "Park" or "parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether the vehicle
237	is occupied or not.
238	(b) "Park" or "parking" does not include the standing of a vehicle temporarily for the
239	purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading property or passengers.
240	[(45)] (46) "Peace officer" means a peace officer authorized under Title 53, Chapter 13,
241	Peace Officer Classifications, to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of
242	traffic laws.
243	[(46)] (47) "Pedestrian" means a person traveling:
211	(a) on foot: or

(a) on foot; or

(b) in a wheelchair.

[(47)] (48) "Pedestrian traffic-control signal" means a traffic-control signal used to
 regulate pedestrians.

[(48)] (49) "Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or
 corporation.

250 [(49)] (50) "Pole trailer" means every vehicle without motive power:

(a) designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by
means of a reach, or pole, or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle; and

(b) that is ordinarily used for transporting long or irregular shaped loads including
poles, pipes, or structural members generally capable of sustaining themselves as beams
between the supporting connections.

[(50)] (51) "Private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership
and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission
from the owner, but not by other persons.

[(51)] (52) "Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property upon cars operated on
 stationary rails.

[(52)] (53) "Railroad sign or signal" means a sign, signal, or device erected by
 authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence
 of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train.

[(53)] (54) "Railroad train" means a locomotive propelled by any form of energy,
 coupled with or operated without cars, and operated upon rails.

[(54)] (55) "Right-of-way" means the right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a
lawful manner in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching under circumstances
of direction, speed, and proximity that give rise to danger of collision unless one grants
precedence to the other.

[(55)] (56) (a) "Roadway" means that portion of highway improved, designed, or
 ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

(b) "Roadway" does not include the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder, even though any ofthem are used by persons riding bicycles or other human-powered vehicles.

(c) "Roadway" refers to any roadway separately but not to all roadways collectively, ifa highway includes two or more separate roadways.

276	[(56)] (57) "Safety zone" means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway
277	for the exclusive use of pedestrians and that is protected, marked, or indicated by adequate
278	signs as to be plainly visible at all times while set apart as a safety zone.
279	[(57)] (58) (a) "School bus" means a motor vehicle that:
280	(i) complies with the color and identification requirements of the most recent edition of
281	"Minimum Standards for School Buses"; and
282	(ii) is used to transport school children to or from school or school activities.
283	(b) "School bus" does not include a vehicle operated by a common carrier in
284	transportation of school children to or from school or school activities.
285	[(58)] (59) (a) "Semitrailer" means a vehicle with or without motive power:
286	(i) designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle;
287	and
288	(ii) constructed so that some part of its weight and that of its load rests on or is carried
289	by another vehicle.
290	(b) "Semitrailer" does not include a pole trailer.
291	[(59)] <u>(60)</u> "Shoulder area" means:
292	(a) that area of the hard-surfaced highway separated from the roadway by a pavement
293	edge line as established in the current approved "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices";
294	or
295	(b) that portion of the road contiguous to the roadway for accommodation of stopped
296	vehicles, for emergency use, and for lateral support.
297	[(60)] (61) "Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines, or the
298	lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.
299	[(61)] (62) "Solid rubber tire" means a tire of rubber or other resilient material that
300	does not depend on compressed air for the support of the load.
301	[(62)] (63) "Stand" or "standing" means the temporary halting of a vehicle, whether
302	occupied or not, for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging
303	passengers.
304	[(63)] (64) "Stop" when required means complete cessation from movement.
305	[(64)] (65) "Stop" or "stopping" when prohibited means any halting even momentarily
306	of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when:

307 (a) necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic; or 308 (b) in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or traffic-control device. 309 [(65)] (66) "Street-legal all-terrain vehicle" or "street-legal ATV" means an all-terrain 310 type I vehicle, all-terrain type II vehicle, or all-terrain type III vehicle, that is modified to meet 311 the requirements of Section 41-6a-1509 to operate on highways in the state in accordance with 312 Section 41-6a-1509. 313 [(66)] (67) "Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highway for the purpose of travel. 314 315 [(67)] (68) "Traffic signal preemption device" means an instrument or mechanism 316 designed, intended, or used to interfere with the operation or cycle of a traffic-control signal. [(68)] (69) "Traffic-control device" means a sign, signal, marking, or device not 317 318 inconsistent with this chapter placed or erected by a highway authority for the purpose of 319 regulating, warning, or guiding traffic. [(69)] (70) "Traffic-control signal" means a device, whether manually, electrically, or 320 321 mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed. 322 [(70)] (71) (a) "Trailer" means a vehicle with or without motive power designed for 323 carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that no 324 part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle. 325 (b) "Trailer" does not include a pole trailer. 326 [(71)] (72) "Truck" means a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for 327 the transportation of property. [(72)] (73) "Truck tractor" means a motor vehicle: 328 329 (a) designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles; and 330 (b) constructed to carry a part of the weight of the vehicle and load drawn by the truck 331 tractor. 332 $\left[\frac{(73)}{(74)}\right]$ (74) "Two-way left turn lane" means a lane: 333 (a) provided for vehicle operators making left turns in either direction; 334 (b) that is not used for passing, overtaking, or through travel; and 335 (c) that has been indicated by a lane traffic-control device that may include lane 336 markings. 337 [(74)] (75) "Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street,

338	in which structures devoted to business, industry, or dwelling houses are situated at intervals of
339	less than 100 feet, for a distance of a quarter of a mile or more.
340	[(75)] (76) "Vehicle" means a device in, on, or by which a person or property is or may
341	be transported or drawn on a highway, except devices used exclusively on stationary rails or
342	tracks.
343	Section 2. Section 41-6a-704 is amended to read:
344	41-6a-704. Overtaking and passing vehicles proceeding in same direction.
345	(1) (a) On any highway:
346	(i) the operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same
347	direction shall:
348	(A) except as provided under Section $41-6a-705$, promptly pass the overtaken vehicle
349	on the left at a safe distance; and
350	(B) enter a right-hand lane or the right side of the roadway only when safely clear of the
351	overtaken vehicle;
352	(ii) the operator of an overtaken vehicle:
353	(A) shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle; and
354	(B) may not increase the speed of the vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking
355	vehicle.
356	(b) The exemption from the minimum speed regulations for a vehicle operating on a
357	grade under Section 41-6a-605 does not exempt the vehicle from promptly passing a vehicle as
358	required under Subsection (1)(a)(i)(A).
359	(2) On a highway having more than one lane in the same direction, the operator of a
360	vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane:
361	(a) shall, upon being overtaken by another vehicle in the same lane, yield to the
362	overtaking vehicle by moving safely to a lane to the right; and
363	(b) may not impede the movement or free flow of traffic in the left general purpose
364	lane.
365	(3) An operator of a vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane that has a vehicle
366	following directly behind the operator's vehicle at a distance so that less than two seconds
367	elapse before reaching the location of the operator's vehicle when space is available for the
368	operator to yield to the overtaking vehicle by traveling in the right-hand lane is prima facie

369	evidence that the operator is violating Subsection (2).
370	(4) The provisions of Subsection (2) do not apply to an operator of a vehicle traveling
371	in the left general purpose lane when:
372	(a) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction in
373	accordance with Subsection (1)(a)(i);
374	(b) preparing to turn left or taking a different highway or an exit on the left;
375	(c) responding to emergency conditions;
376	(d) avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the highway from an acceleration
377	or merging lane; or
378	(e) following the direction of a traffic-control device that directs the use of a designated
379	lane.
380	(5) An individual may engage in lane splitting only when the following conditions
381	exist:
382	(a) the individual is operating a motorcycle;
383	(b) the individual is on a roadway divided into two or more adjacent traffic lanes in the
384	same direction of travel;
385	(c) the vehicle being overtaken in the same lane is stopped;
386	(d) the motorcycle is traveling at a speed of 15 miles per hour or less; and
387	(e) the movement may be made safely.
388	[(5)] (6) A violation of Subsection $[(1) or (2)]$ (1), (2), or (5) is an infraction.
389	Section 3. Section 41-6a-710 is amended to read:
390	41-6a-710. Roadway divided into marked lanes Provisions Traffic-control
391	devices.
392	On a roadway divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic the following
393	provisions apply and any violation of this section is an infraction:
394	(1) (a) [A] Except as provided in Subsection (1)(c), a person operating a vehicle:
395	(i) shall keep the vehicle as nearly as practical entirely within a single lane; and
396	(ii) may not move the vehicle from the lane until the operator has reasonably
397	determined the movement can be made safely.
398	(b) A determination under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is reasonable if a reasonable person
399	acting under the same conditions and having regard for actual and potential hazards then

400	existing would determine that the movement could be made safely.
401	(c) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to an individual operating a motorcycle engaging
402	in lane splitting as described in Section 41-6a-704.
403	(2) (a) On a roadway divided into three or more lanes and providing for two-way
404	movement of traffic, a person operating a vehicle may not drive in the center lane except:
405	(i) when overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction, and
406	when the center lane is:
407	(A) clear of traffic within a safe distance; and
408	(B) not a two-way left turn lane;
409	(ii) in preparation of making or completing a left turn in compliance with Section
410	41-6a-801; or
411	(iii) where the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the same
412	direction that the vehicle is proceeding as indicated by traffic-control devices.
413	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(i) and in accordance with Subsection (1)(a), a
414	person operating a vehicle may drive in a center lane that is a two-way left turn lane if:
415	(i) the center lane is:
416	(A) on a roadway divided into three or more lanes that provides for two-way
417	movement of traffic; and
418	(B) clear of traffic within a safe distance;
419	(ii) there is only one lane of travel in the direction the person operating the vehicle is
420	traveling; and
421	(iii) the person operating the vehicle is overtaking and passing a bicycle or moped that
422	is moving at less than the reasonable speed of traffic that is present.
423	(3) (a) A highway authority may erect traffic-control devices directing specified traffic
424	to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular
425	direction regardless of the center of the roadway.
426	(b) An operator of a vehicle shall obey the directions of a traffic-control device erected
427	under Subsection (3)(a).