
HOUSE BILL 1487

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representative Orcutt

1 AN ACT Relating to improving motorcycle safety by authorizing the
2 use of the right shoulder of limited access roadways; and amending
3 RCW 46.61.608.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.608 and 2013 c 139 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) All motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane and no
8 motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any
9 motorcycle of the full use of a lane. This subsection shall not apply
10 to motorcycles operated two abreast in a single lane.

11 (2) The operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass in
12 the same lane or shoulder occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.
13 However, this subsection shall not apply when the operator of a
14 motorcycle overtakes and passes a pedestrian or bicyclist while
15 maintaining a safe passing distance of at least three feet.

16 (3) No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic
17 or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

18 (4) Motorcycles shall not be operated more than two abreast in a
19 single lane.

20 (5) Motorcycles may travel in the right shoulder of a limited
21 access roadway when traffic is stopped or when the average speed of

1 the vehicles on the travel lanes of the limited access roadway is 25
2 miles per hour or less, subject to the following restrictions:

3 (a) A motorcycle may not use a right shoulder at a speed greater
4 than 10 miles per hour faster than the speed of traffic in the lane
5 adjacent to the shoulder;

6 (b) A motorcycle is not permitted to ride past an exit ramp when
7 traveling on the shoulder of a limited access highway: The motorcycle
8 must either exit the shoulder and reenter the traffic lanes of the
9 limited access highway when approaching the exit ramp or, when the
10 exit ramp is reached, proceed down the exit ramp;

11 (c) Motorcycles may not be operated more than one abreast on a
12 right shoulder; and

13 (d) A motorcycle must reenter traffic lanes if the shoulder is
14 occupied by a parked vehicle, emergency vehicle, tow truck, or other
15 vehicle providing roadside assistance.

16 (6) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not apply to
17 police officers in the performance of their official duties.

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