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AB-51 Vehicles: motorcycles: lane splitting. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Bill No. 51

CHAPTER 141

An act to add Section 21658.1 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

[Approved by Governor August 19, 2016. Filed with Secretary of State August 19, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 51, Quirk. Vehicles: motorcycles: lane splitting.

Existing law requires, whenever a roadway has been divided into 2 or more clearly marked lanes for traffic in one direction, that a vehicle be driven as nearly as practical entirely within a single lane and not be moved from the lane until the movement can be made with reasonable safety.

This bill would define "lane splitting" as driving a motorcycle, that has 2 wheels in contact with the ground, between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane, as specified. The bill would authorize the Department of the California Highway Patrol to develop educational guidelines relating to lane splitting in a manner that would ensure the safety of the motorcyclist, drivers, and passengers, as specified. The bill would require the department, in developing these guidelines, to consult with specified agencies and organizations with an interest in road safety and motorcyclist behavior.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 21658.1 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

21658.1. (a) For the purposes of this section, "lane splitting" means driving a motorcycle, as defined in Section 400, that has two wheels in contact with the ground, between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane, including on both divided and undivided streets, roads, or highways.

(b) The Department of the California Highway Patrol may develop educational guidelines relating to lane splitting in a manner that would ensure the safety of the motorcyclist and the drivers and passengers of the surrounding vehicles.

(c) In developing guidelines pursuant to this section, the department shall consult with agencies and organizations with an interest in road safety and motorcyclist behavior, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) The Department of Motor Vehicles.
- (2) The Department of Transportation.
- (3) The Office of Traffic Safety.

(4) A motorcycle organization focused on motorcyclist safety.