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0508.hv. .5 DRAFT

Motorcycle Amendments
2027 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Walt Brooks

Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to motorcycles, including lane filtering, side-marker lamps, and motorcycle rider education courses.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- removes the sunset related to lane filtering, and makes lane filtering permanent;
- changes the speed of highways on which lane filtering is allowed from 45 miles per hour to 55 miles per hour;
- allows a motorcycle to have an amber light on the side of the motorcycle to improve visibility to other motorists;
- allows a court to require participation in a motorcycle rider education course as part of a penalty for traffic offenses committed while the individual was operating a motorcycle;
- and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

41-6a-704 (Effective 05/05/27) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 456

41-6a-1506 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 334

63I-1-241 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 334

ENACTS:

41-6a-1514 (Effective 05/05/27), Utah Code Annotated 1953

31 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 Section 1. Section **41-6a-704** is amended to read:

33 **41-6a-704 (Effective 05/05/27) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). Overtaking and**
34 **passing vehicles proceeding in same direction.**

35 (1) As used in this section:

36 (a)(i) "Off-ramp" means the portion of a roadway that connects a freeway or limited
37 access highway to an intersection.

38 (ii) "Off-ramp" does not include the portion of a roadway that connects two
39 controlled access highways, two limited access highways, or a controlled access
40 highway and a limited access highway.

41 (b)(i) "On-ramp" means the portion of a roadway that connects an intersection to a
42 freeway or limited access highway.

43 (ii) "On-ramp" does not include the portion of a roadway that connects two controlled
44 access highways, two limited access highways, or a controlled access highway
45 and a limited access highway.

46 (2)(a) Except as provided in Section 41-6a-718, on any highway:

47 (i) the operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same
48 direction shall:

49 (A) except as provided under Section 41-6a-705, promptly pass the overtaken
50 vehicle on the left at a safe distance; and

51 (B) enter a right-hand lane or the right side of the roadway only when safely clear
52 of the overtaken vehicle; and

53 (ii) the operator of an overtaken vehicle:

54 (A) shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle; and

55 (B) may not increase the speed of the vehicle until completely passed by the
56 overtaking vehicle.

57 (b) The exemption from the minimum speed regulations for a vehicle operating on a
58 grade under Section 41-6a-605 does not exempt the vehicle from promptly passing a
59 vehicle as required under Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A).

60 (3) On a highway having more than one lane in the same direction, the operator of a vehicle
61 traveling in the left general purpose lane:

62 (a) shall, upon being overtaken by another vehicle in the same lane, yield to the
63 overtaking vehicle by moving safely to a lane to the right; and

64 (b) may not impede the movement or free flow of traffic in the left general purpose lane.

- (4) An operator of a vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane that has a vehicle following directly behind the operator's vehicle at a distance so that less than two seconds elapse before reaching the location of the operator's vehicle when space is available for the operator to yield to the overtaking vehicle by traveling in the right-hand lane is prima facie evidence that the operator is violating Subsection (3).
- (5) The provisions of Subsection (3) do not apply to an operator of a vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane when:
- (a) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction in accordance with Subsection (2)(a)(i);
 - (b) preparing to turn left or taking a different highway or an exit on the left;
 - (c) responding to emergency conditions;
 - (d) avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the highway from an acceleration or merging lane; or
 - (e) following the direction of a traffic-control device that directs the use of a designated lane.
- (6) An individual may engage in lane filtering only when the following conditions exist:
- (a) the individual is operating a motorcycle;
 - (b) the individual is:
 - (i) on a roadway that is divided into two or more adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel; or
 - (ii) on an off-ramp that is divided into two or more adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel;
 - (c) the individual is:
 - (i) on a roadway with a speed limit of [45] 55 miles per hour or less; or
 - (ii) on an off-ramp;
 - (d) the individual is not on an on-ramp;
 - (e) the vehicle being overtaken in the same lane is stopped;
 - (f) the motorcycle is traveling at a speed of 15 miles per hour or less; and
 - (g) the movement may be made safely.
- (7) A violation of Subsection (2), (3), or (6) is an infraction.
- Section 2. Section **41-6a-1506** is amended to read:
- 41-6a-1506 (Effective 05/05/27). Motorcycles -- Required equipment -- Brakes.**
- (1) A motorcycle shall be equipped with the following items:
- (a) one head lamp that, when factory equipped with an automatic lighting ignition

- 99 system, may not be disconnected;
- 100 (b) one tail lamp;
- 101 (c) either a tail lamp or a separate lamp which illuminates the rear license plate with a
- 102 white light;
- 103 (d) one red reflector on the rear, either separate or as part of the tail lamp;
- 104 (e) one stop lamp;
- 105 (f) a braking system, other than parking brake, in accordance with Section 41-6a-1623;
- 106 (g) a horn or warning device in accordance with Section 41-6a-1625;
- 107 (h) a muffler and emission control system in accordance with Section 41-6a-1626;
- 108 (i) a mirror in accordance with Section 41-6a-1627; and
- 109 (j) tires in accordance with Section 41-6a-1636.

110 (2)(a) A motorcycle may be equipped with amber lamps mounted on the side of the

111 motorcycle for the purpose of increasing the visibility of the motorcycle to other

112 motorists if:

- 113 (i) the lamps display only a steady amber light;
- 114 (ii) the lamps are mounted on the sides of the motorcycle and are oriented to improve
- 115 side visibility;
- 116 (iii) the lamps do not flash, oscillate, rotate, or otherwise imitate emergency vehicle
- 117 lighting; and
- 118 (iv) the lamps are not blue, red, or a combination of blue and red.

119 (b) A lamp authorized under Subsection (2)(a) does not violate Section 41-6a-1604.

120 [(2)] (3) An autocycle shall be equipped with the following items:

- 121 (a) a seatbelt for each seat installed in the autocycle in accordance with Section
- 122 41-6a-1628;
- 123 (b) at least one head lamp that, when factory equipped with an automatic lighting
- 124 ignition system, may not be disconnected;
- 125 (c) at least one tail lamp;
- 126 (d) either a tail lamp or a separate lamp that illuminates the rear license plate with a
- 127 white light;
- 128 (e) at least one red reflector, either separate or as part of the tail lamp or tail lamps;
- 129 (f) at least one stop lamp;
- 130 (g) a braking system, other than a parking brake, in accordance with Section 41-6a-1623;
- 131 (h) a horn or warning device in accordance with Section 41-6a-1625;
- 132 (i) a muffler and emission control system in accordance with Section 41-6a-1626 that,

when factory equipped, may not be removed;

(j) a mirror in accordance with Section 41-6a-1627; and

(k) tires in accordance with Section 41-6a-1636.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Section 3. Section **41-6a-1514** is enacted to read:

41-6a-1514 (Effective 05/05/27). Court-ordered motorcycle rider education course.

(1) A court may order an individual convicted of a violation of this chapter committed while operating a motorcycle to successfully complete a motorcycle rider education course approved under Title 53, Chapter 3, Part 9, Motorcycle Rider Education Act.

(2) A court may order an individual to complete a motorcycle rider education course described in Subsection (1):

(a) in addition to another penalty authorized by law; or

(b) as a condition of probation.

(3) The court shall establish a deadline for completion of the motorcycle rider education course required as described in Subsection (1).

(4) An individual ordered to complete a motorcycle rider education course under this section is responsible for the cost of the course unless the court orders otherwise.

Section 4. Section **63I-1-241** is amended to read:

63I-1-241 (Effective 05/05/27). Repeal dates: Title 41.

(1) Subsection 41-1a-1201(8), regarding the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Fund, is repealed July 1, 2029.

~~[(2) Subsection 41-6a-102(39), regarding lane filtering, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

~~[(3) Subsection 41-6a-704(6), regarding lane filtering, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

~~[(4) Subsection 41-6a-710(1)(c), regarding lane filtering, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

~~[(5)]~~ (2) Subsection 41-6a-1406(7)(b)(iii), regarding the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Fund, is repealed July 1, 2029.

~~[(6)]~~ (3) Subsection 41-22-2(1), regarding an advisory council addressing off-highway vehicle issues, is repealed July 1, 2027.

~~[(7)]~~ (4) Subsection 41-22-10(1), regarding an advisory council addressing off-highway vehicle issues, is repealed July 1, 2027.

~~[(8)]~~ (5) Subsection 41-22-8(3)(b), regarding the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Fund, is repealed July 1, 2029.

Section 5. **Effective Date.**

167 This bill takes effect on May 5, 2027.