

ASSEMBLY, No. 3701

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 20, 2006

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ALISON LITTELL MCHOSE

District 24 (Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Van Drew, Schaer, Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez and
Assemblyman Giblin**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Lane Splitting Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/12/2007)

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1 AN ACT establishing a Lane Splitting Task Force.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*

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6 1. There is established a Lane Splitting Task Force. The task
7 force shall consist of five members, to be appointed as follows:

8 a. Two members by the Governor, as follows:

9 (1) A representative from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation; and

10 (2) A representative from Rider Education of New Jersey; and

11 b. The Commissioner of Transportation or his designee;

12 c. The Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission or
13 his designee; and

14 d. The Superintendent of State Police or his designee.

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16 2. The public members shall be appointed within three months
17 of enactment and shall, to the greatest extent practicable, have, by
18 education or experience, knowledge of lane splitting initiatives in
19 other states or countries, and the effects they have had on road
20 congestion and traffic safety. Any vacancy in the public
21 membership of the task force shall be filled by appointment in the
22 same manner as the original appointment was made.

23 The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the
24 appointments of its members. The Commissioner of Transportation,
25 or his designee, shall serve as the chair of the task force and shall
26 appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the task force.
27 The members shall select a vice chair from among them.

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29 3. The task force shall focus on lane splitting, which is the
30 allowing of motorcycles to ride between lanes of motor vehicle
31 traffic during times of congestion, and shall examine the advantages
32 and drawbacks of instituting such an initiative in New Jersey. In
33 conducting its inquiry, the task force shall study lane splitting
34 initiatives which have been adopted or considered in other states
35 and countries and determine their effect on road congestion and
36 traffic safety. The task force shall compare these various initiatives
37 and establish an opinion on which components of the policies would
38 provide the most benefit with the safest implementation if lane
39 splitting were adopted in New Jersey.

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41 4. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
42 shall avail itself of the services of the employees of any State,
43 county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or
44 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
45 purposes. The task force shall further be entitled to employ counsel
46 and stenographic and clerical assistance and incur traveling and
47 other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary to perform

1 its duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made
2 available for its purposes.

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4 5. The task force may conduct public hearings in furtherance of
5 its general purposes at such place or places as it shall designate, at
6 which it may request the appearance of officials of any federal,
7 State, or interstate department, board, bureau, commission, agency,
8 or authority and solicit the testimony or interested groups and the
9 general public.

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11 6. The task force shall report its progress to the Governor and
12 Legislature annually, with the first report no later than 12 months
13 after its organization, and shall issue a final proposal to the
14 Governor and Legislature no later than three years after its
15 organization. The final proposal shall outline the findings of the
16 task force, including, but not limited to:

17 a. The advantages and drawbacks of lane splitting, in general;

18 b. Guidelines outlining specific components that a lane splitting
19 initiative should include, if one were to be adopted in New Jersey,
20 to ensure the most successful and safest implementation possible;
21 and

22 c. A recommendation as to whether New Jersey should adopt a
23 lane splitting initiative, taking into account the State's highway
24 system, congestion, and unique attributes and traffic patterns.

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26 7. The members of the task force shall serve without
27 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
28 incurred in the performance of their duties. Any reimbursement of
29 members shall be within the limits of funds appropriated to
30 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

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32 8. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire upon
33 the filing of the task force's final proposal to the Governor and
34 Legislature in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of this
35 act.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill would establish a Lane Splitting Task Force to focus on
41 the policy of allowing motorcycles to ride between lanes of motor
42 vehicle traffic during times of congestion, and to examine the
43 advantages and drawbacks of instituting such an initiative in New
44 Jersey. The task force would consist of five members, including:

- 45 • A representative from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation;
- 46 • A representative from Rider Education of New Jersey;
- 47 • The Commissioner of Transportation;

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- 1 • The Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission;
2 and
3 • The Superintendent of State Police.

4 In conducting its inquiry, the task force would be charged with
5 studying lane splitting initiatives which have been adopted or
6 considered in other states and countries and determining their effect
7 on road congestion and traffic safety. The task force would
8 compare these various initiatives and establish an opinion on which
9 components would provide the most benefit with the safest
10 implementation, if lane splitting were adopted in New Jersey.

11 The bill requires the task force to report its progress to the
12 Governor and Legislature annually, and to issue a final proposal
13 within three years.