STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 11, 2010

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2475 (riding between lanes; motorcycle operation)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today I vetoed House Bill 2475. The bill would have allowed motorcycle operators in Maricopa County to pass vehicles in the same lane and drive between lanes of stopped traffic for a one-year period.

This practice is currently prohibited by law in Arizona and it is not clear how this proposal, which is drafted as a one-year session law, could be implemented in a way that all motorists would be advised of this change in traffic law and educated on how to operate in a safe manner.

Further, should the practice sunset as prescribed (when the legislature is not in session and without a study to determine its impact), a public awareness and education campaign would need to be implemented to notify the public again.

Jurisdictional implementation, as it is proposed in this bill, also may create a potential for complications. I do not think that it is wise or prudent to sign a bill that would allow traffic practices in one part of the state that remain offenses in all other areas. This will create a confusing patchwork of traffic safety enforcement wherein vehicle operators would be in compliance with the law in one area, and then in violation in the next as they drive from county to county.

I am also concerned that some highway safety officials and law enforcement agencies raised questions on the impact this practice would have on safety. In addition, both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles both hold that it is unsafe to operate a motorcycle between rows of stopped or moving traffic. While California does not specifically prohibit lane-splitting, it is important to note that the state calls it an unsafe practice.

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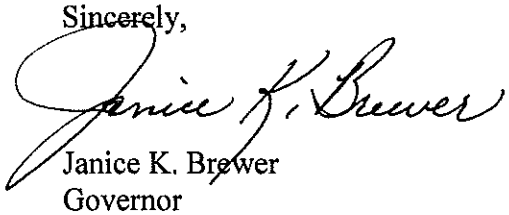
I take highway safety seriously; especially the safety concerns of motorcyclists. That is why I recently signed SB 1023 motor vehicle accidents; death; injury. This bill added violations to those that constitute causing serious physical injury or death by a moving violation, earning wide support in the motorcyclist and highway safety community.

I encourage the sponsor to work with the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and the Department of Public Safety to gather available data on the need for, and the implications of, this legislation.

Sincerely,



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kirk Adams
The Honorable Robert Burns
The Honorable Jerry Weiers

House Engrossed

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-ninth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2010

HOUSE BILL 2475

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF MOTORCYCLES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)