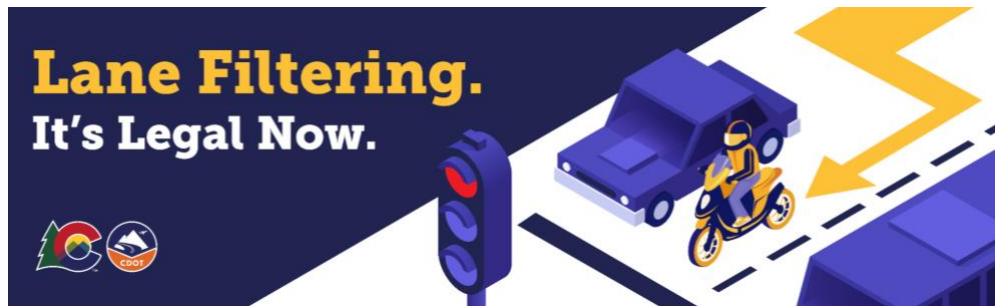




## Colorado's Motorcycle Lane Filtering Law



Colorado recently passed a new law allowing motorcycles to pass between vehicles stopped on the roadway. The law took effect Aug. 7, 2024. CDOT thanks you for using the information below to educate your patrons on the new law.

**For motorcycle riders to lane filter correctly, they must follow these rules:**

1. If a rider wants to pass, traffic must be at a complete stop.
2. The lane must be wide enough to fit the vehicle and motorcycle while passing.
3. The motorcycle must go 15 mph or less.
4. The rider must pass safely and control the motorcycle.
5. The rider must pass on the left and not enter the oncoming traffic lane.

Lane filtering is not the same as lane splitting. Lane filtering allows motorcyclists to safely navigate through **stopped** traffic traveling in the same direction as the rider. Lane splitting, which remains illegal, involves riding between lanes of moving vehicles.

### **The new law could save lives**

Colorado's new lane filtering law could save motorcyclists' lives. Lane filtering reduces the chance for motorcyclists to be rear-ended by a car or truck. Collisions from behind can cause serious injury or kill motorcycle riders.

### **Motorcyclists: filter and ride safely**

Riders should always prioritize safety and be mindful of their surroundings. It is often impossible to predict the actions of other vehicles. Motorcyclists should always ride sober, wear protective gear, and stay focused on the road. Colorado law requires a valid motorcycle license or a motorcycle endorsement on your existing driver's license to legally operate a motorcycle on public roads.

### **Share the road: What other vehicle drivers need to know**

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Drivers should understand that motorcycle riders are more exposed and vulnerable to unexpected road hazards. Lane filtering is one way for motorcyclists to protect themselves. Treat riders with courtesy as they practice lane filtering.

For more information, visit [codot.gov/lanefiltering](https://codot.gov/lanefiltering).



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### When did the law take effect?

- August 7, 2024

### Is lane filtering allowed on one-lane roads?

- Yes, as long as you do not cross the centerline, pass on the left, your speeds is 15 mph or below, and vehicles are stopped.

### Where do Motorcycle riders stop in a long queue?

- Motorcycles can work their way all the way to the front as long as the other vehicles traveling in the same direction remain stopped while they pass. When stopped vehicles begin to move, the motorcyclist must reenter the flow of traffic.

### Why can't you pass on the right?

- It's easier for drivers to see riders approaching on the left side.

### What about on roads with center left-turn shared lanes?

- Motorcycles should only pass if they can do so safely within the same lane. The shared turn lane may have oncoming traffic and should be avoided when lane filtering.

### What if there's no room?

- No lane filtering allowed. The law states that the road must have lanes wide enough to safely pass.

### What determines if lane filtering is "safe to do"?

- It's up to the rider to assess each situation and determine if the conditions are safe and legal to filter – it's an option, not a requirement to filter.

### What about three wheels, Vespas, mopeds/e-bikes and electric scooters?

- The law applies to motorcycles. According to Colorado law, a "motorcycle is a motor vehicle that uses handlebars or any other device connected to the front wheel to steer, a seat the rider sits astride, and is designed to travel on no more than three wheels; except that the term does not include farm tractors, low-power scooters, or low-speed electric vehicles."
- In this case, three-wheeled motorcycles, Vespas and mopeds would be permitted to lane filter, but e-bikes and electric scooters would not.