

Legislative Hearing Protocols

Legislative hearings are a bit of a dance, with some subtle nuances.

General Guidelines:

1. The most important thing is that only 2-3 people sign up to give actual testimony, with the rest of the supporters signing up in support but not testifying. Note: you do not need to be present to sign in but not testify. The other option is to merely submit comments for the record.
2. If a previous speaker has covered the points that you wish to cover, and you have nothing else substantial to add, merely thank the committee for providing the time and let them know that your points have been covered.
3. Brevity is the total byword.
4. In issues such as lane sharing/splitting or shoulder riding, if you are not personally comfortable with the practice, please hold your counsel. Nothing kills an issue like division amongst the troops. Remember, the proposals have been brought forward by well meaning legislators to give members of the motorcycling community additional tools to use at their personal discretion.
5. Members and staff definitely look to the number of personnel who sign up in favor of an issue but do not wish to provide oral testimony.

The legislation:

[HB 1112](#) (Rep. Harris) concerning criminal penalties for negligent driving involving a vulnerable user victim. This establishes the new offense of Negligent Driving with a Vulnerable User Victim (1st and 2nd degree) which makes it easier for local authorities to prosecute when a motorcyclist is killed or is seriously injured. The prime sponsor's staff has requested that everyone but a representative of ABATE (me 😊) sign in as supporting but not testifying. The hearing date is 13 Feb at 16:00.

[HB 1487](#) (Rep Orcutt) allowing right shoulder riding when traffic is slowed to a pace of 25 mph or less. This is Rep. Orcutt's offering as an alternative to full on lane sharing, a reasonable compromise to keep the congestion relief conversation moving forward. He has requested that only 2-3 persons sign up to give testimony with as many as possible signing up in support but not testifying. I have already signed up to provide testimony. Please respect the wishes of our Prime Sponsor. The hearing date is 15 Feb at 16:00.

[SB 5401](#) (Sen. Randall) allowing lane sharing/splitting when traffic is slowed to a pace of 25 mph or less. I have a strategy meeting with the Senator and staff early next week. Again, I am already signed up to testify, and I have reached out to Nick Haris of the AMA to join the panel. He is the Western States representative, has assisted other states with their lane sharing/splitting efforts, and has returned to his roots in WA after living in CA for over 20 years. Nick is on travel for the AMA but has indicated that he will be back in place to provide expert testimony. The hearing date is 16 Feb at 16:00.