

Douglas Dolan
Hollis Center

Re: LD 1230 - An Act To Enhance Traffic Safety with Regard to the Operation of Bicycles on Public Ways

Dear Senator Diamond,

On April 8th, the Committee on Transportation will take up LD 1230. I am writing to emphatically request that this piece of legislation be killed in committee.

As a 40+ year road cyclist, I have extensive experience with situations concerning this bill. Aside from the deference to motor vehicles over cyclists, forcing a group of cyclists into a single file to allow motorists to pass will actually REDUCE safety.

It is always safer for a motor vehicle to pass a group of cyclists riding two abreast than single file.

Consider these points:

a) When passing single file riders, motorists often try to continue using part of the driving lane that the cyclist is using rather than fully utilizing the opposite lane as when passing another motor vehicle. This is dangerous for the cyclists, possibly not giving them their legal right of 3 feet of clearance, and reduces the motorists ability to see oncoming traffic.

b) The group of cyclists riding two abreast is utilizing half the distance of roadway than the same group riding single file. This significantly shortens the time needed for a motor vehicle to pass the group. With Maine's many curvy roads, this is even more important.

c) A group of cyclists riding two abreast are more visible to approaching motorists than a group riding single file.

Nothing about LD 1230 "enhances safety".

Thanks for your consideration and best regards,

Douglas Dolan - Life long cyclist
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