

Washington State Riders Allowed To Run Red Lights

Washington motorcyclists will soon be allowed to run red lights under certain conditions, under Senate Bill 5141 recently signed by Governor Jay Inslee, which will allow riders to proceed through traffic stops controlled by ineffective detection devices.

Traffic vehicle detection devices are scattered throughout the state in both rural and urban areas, giving streets green lights when they need them and reds when they do not. The devices, which come in the form of cameras or underground sensors, register vehicles stopped at intersections and cue traffic lights accordingly.

But to motorcyclists, the technology represents the opposite of traffic efficiency, as the devices often fail to register their bikes, creating inconvenient and sometimes dangerous moments at busy intersections.

The motorcycle community's longstanding wish for a solution was granted on March 31 when Gov. Inslee signed Senate Bill 5141, giving motorcyclists the option of running red lights that rely on ineffective vehicle detection devices. When motorcyclists encounter devices that fail to notice their presence, they will be allowed to proceed through the light with "due caution" after one complete cycle.

Weight-bearing traffic signal mechanisms were developed in the 1920s, but have mostly been phased out over the years in favor of induction loop signals which are buried in the road and triggered by ferrous metal. Many of the newer detection devices are cameras that control traffic lights based on sight or timing.

"There was no safe and legal way to get through until this legislation passed," Larry Walker, Government Relations Specialist for the Washington Road Riders Association, told the Oregonian newspaper.

Fourteen other states have passed similar legislation. Senate Bill 5141 takes effect June 12.



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**Run To The Wall
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For the 21st year in a row, approximately 200 bikers will meet at the law offices of Carlson, Blau, & Clemens at 37th and Wisconsin Ave. in Milwaukee at 8 a.m. on Thursday May 22, 2014.

After coffee, donuts, the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, and bike blessing; the group will leave promptly at 9 a.m. with a police escort. South across the 35th St. bridge to National Ave; East on National to 10th St; South to the freeway; past 1,000 cheering school children, their teachers and parents; and southeast to the Vietnam vets memorial wall in Washington D.C.

Show your support by showing up at 8 a.m. Thursday May 22 and ride 5 miles, 10 miles, or all the way. Co-sponsored by the law firm of Carlson, Blau, & Clemens, and Rolling Thunder of Wisconsin.

To join the ride to Washington D.C. contact Tim Thompson at (414) 405-5757 or Sue Konopka at (800) 486-0106 or (262) 681-9320 after 7:30 p.m.

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