

SB 19-144



EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO

TRANSPORTATION

MOTORCYCLISTS AND MALFUNCTIONING TRAFFIC LIGHTS

19-144: YOUR “NO” VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

HB SB 19-144 would allow a driver of a motorcycle to proceed past a traffic control signal that is inoperative or remains on steady red or steady yellow for two minutes or more, or that fails to recognize a motorcycle for two minutes or more.

Provisions within the state traffic code (CRS: 42-4-612) already exist that would allow motorcyclists to proceed through an intersection if a traffic light isn't operating properly.

Municipal police and public works departments are concerned that SB 19-144 will add confusion and lead to an increase in traffic accidents and fatalities at intersections across the state. Furthermore, many lights at Colorado intersections cycle longer than two minutes, creating dangerous public safety conditions for motorcyclists, drivers, and pedestrians.

SB 19-144 would jeopardize public safety by:

- Inadvertently encouraging motorcyclists to proceed through red lights prematurely and increasing the potential for accidents.
- Creating an inconsistent standard of rules for different types of vehicles within the traffic code that leads to more confusion and unpredictable behavior on the roadway.

Although CML believes there are adequate specifications within Colorado's model traffic code that address this situation, police officers can still utilize discretion when enforcing red light violations, should the conditions described in this bill exist.

Please Vote “No” on SB 19-144.

March 11, 2019