



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

More safety for e-scooter, e-bike users under bill backed by CAOC that heads to the Assembly floor

AB 1286 will also increase insurance coverage for riders

SACRAMENTO (April 30, 2019) – Users of rental e-scooters and e-bikes that have become ubiquitous in many of California’s larger cities will have increased protection under a bill sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that will be heard by the state Assembly after passing the Assembly Judiciary Committee today.

Assembly Bill 1286 by Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) will require cities and counties to adopt and enforce safety rules for shared mobility devices. AB 1286 will also require minimum insurance to protect riders as well as pedestrians and others in the event of injury, and rental companies will be prohibited from forcing riders to waive their legal rights.

“This is an industry that popped up practically overnight, and it’s led to a Wild West situation in the absence of regulation,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “There have been numerous bad accidents causing serious injuries and even deaths to riders, and pedestrians have been left to navigate sidewalks where e-scooters are being ridden or simply left behind. These shared mobility devices have benefits, but the current situation cannot continue.”

AB 1286 will create a uniform statewide insurance standard for e-scooters and bikes, following the lead of California’s pioneering 2014 insurance requirements for companies such as Uber and Lyft. Many shared mobility companies today bury the news in long e-contracts that they’ll cover no more than \$100 in liability damages, even when they’re at fault. Those contracts often also include complicated waivers releasing companies from responsibility for injuries or deaths, regardless of whether they are to blame.

While the Legislature considers AB 1286, casualties continue to mount. In recent months, at least a half-dozen scooter riders across the country have been killed, two of them in California. A study published this year in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported that more than 200 scooter riders were treated for injuries last year in just two Southern California emergency rooms.

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs’ attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

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