



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Bill advances to help protect users of e-scooters, bikes

Would boast safety rules, insurance coverage for burgeoning industry

**SACRAMENTO (April 23, 2019)** – A bill that would provide better safety and insurance protections to Californians who use the mushrooming number of e-scooters and bikes popping up in the Golden State’s major cities scored a tough victory in its first legislative hearing today.

AB 1286 by Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and backed by Consumer Attorneys of California won approval in the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee despite broad opposition by a bevy of e-commerce companies that rent the scooters and bikes.

The bill would require that cities and counties adopt safety rules to protect both riders and pedestrians. In addition, the bill would boost the insurance that e-scooter and e-bike companies carry. Many firms require that riders approve voluminous contracts with waivers buried deep in the fine print that limit a company’s liability to as little as \$100, even if a mechanical failure or maintenance problem causes an accident.

Although e-scooters and bikes are heralded as an eco-friendly, low-cost transportation option that can solve the “last mile” missing link in public transportation networks, their rapid growth has been accompanied by safety and liability problems for riders and pedestrians.

Municipal governments have been scrambling to adopt regulations protecting those who use them, as well as pedestrians and others who are at risk of injury. The result has been a hodgepodge of conflicting regulations or, in some instances, no regulations at all.

Meanwhile, casualties are mounting. In recent months, at least a half dozen scooter riders across the country have been killed, two of them in California. A study published last month 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. Riders often drive and park on sidewalks, creating a hazard for the elderly, children and people with disabilities.

AB 1286 now goes to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

*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.*

**For more information:**

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