



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Assembly passes bill to protect e-scooter, e-bike users

AB 1286 will require safety rules, increase insurance coverage

SACRAMENTO (May 20, 2019) – The California Assembly today approved legislation that will add protections for users of rental e-scooters and e-bikes that have proliferated in many of California’s larger cities.

Assembly Bill 1286 by Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California and the League of California Cities, will require cities and counties to adopt and enforce safety rules for shared mobility devices. AB 1286 will also require minimum insurance to protect not only riders but pedestrians and others in the event of injury.

“We need to get control of the Wild West situation on our streets and sidewalks that has developed without regulation,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “Right now our pedestrians are forced to dodge riders on the sidewalks and negotiate their way around scooters that have been left at random in the right of way. Serious injuries, even deaths, are happening without adequate coverage for those who are harmed.”

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. Rental companies will be prohibited from forcing riders to waive their legal rights as many now do, buried in long e-contracts that often also include complicated waivers releasing companies from responsibility for injuries or deaths, even when it’s their fault.

The dangers on the streets and sidewalks of California’s cities are real. 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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