



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC-backed legislation would protect California users of e-scooters, bikes

AB 1286 would require safety rules, insurance coverage

**SACRAMENTO (Feb. 22, 2019)** – Californians who use the growing number of e-scooters and bikes showing up in the Golden State’s major cities would benefit from protections under a bill backed by Consumer Attorneys of California introduced at the State Capitol.

These “shared mobility devices” have been introduced so quickly that cities and counties have had a hard time keeping up with regulations to protect those who use them, as well as pedestrians and others who are at risk of injury. In recent months, four scooter riders across the country have been killed, including one in San Diego. A study published last month in the Journal of the American Medical Association found more than 200 scooter riders were treated for injuries last year in just two Southern California emergency rooms.

“Scooters provide an eco-friendly, low-cost transportation option, but the lack of uniform consumer protections is a problem,” said CAOC President Mike Arias. “Riders often drive and park on sidewalks, creating a hazard for the elderly, children and people with disabilities.”

AB 1286, by Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), would require that cities and counties adopt and companies comply with safety rules. In addition, the bill would require minimum insurance to protect riders as well as pedestrians and others in the event of injury.

“Scooter companies are already complying with minimum insurance requirements in cities like San Francisco and Santa Monica,” said Nancy Peverini, CAOC Legislative Director. “AB 1286 would create a uniform statewide standard, following the lead of our our first-in-the-nation insurance requirements for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft.”

AB 1286 would also prohibit companies that provide e-scooters and bikes from requiring users to waive their legal rights by limiting damages or by forcing them to take disputes to private, secret arbitration. Scooter companies’ rental agreements currently include complicated waivers, which unconsciously relieve the companies of responsibility for any injuries or deaths, even when it is their fault, and severely limit compensation for harm.

*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:**

**J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916-600-9692, [jgpreston@caoc.org](mailto:jgpreston@caoc.org)  
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, [ebailey@caoc.org](mailto:ebailey@caoc.org)**