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SENATE BILL 5177

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Senators Horn, Wood, Prince, Winsley, Deccio and Johnson

Read first time 01/17/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to proper lane travel for heavy vehicles; and  
2 amending RCW 46.61.100.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.100 and 1986 c 93 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) Upon all roadways of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven  
7 upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

8            (a) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the  
9 same direction under the rules governing such movement;

10           (b) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the  
11 left of the center of the highway; provided, any person so doing shall  
12 yield the right of way to all vehicles traveling in the proper  
13 direction upon the unobstructed portion of the highway within such  
14 distance as to constitute an immediate hazard;

15           (c) Upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes and providing  
16 for two-way movement traffic under the rules applicable thereon; or

17           (d) Upon a street or highway restricted to one-way traffic.

18           (2) Upon all roadways having two or more lanes for traffic moving  
19 in the same direction, all vehicles shall be driven in the right-hand

1 lane then available for traffic, except (a) when overtaking and passing  
2 another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, (b) when traveling at  
3 a speed greater than the traffic flow, (c) when moving left to allow  
4 traffic to merge, or (d) when preparing for a left turn at an  
5 intersection, exit, or into a private road or driveway when such left  
6 turn is legally permitted. On any such roadway, a ~~((motor-truck))~~  
7 vehicle or combination over ten thousand pounds shall be driven only in  
8 the right-hand lane except under the conditions enumerated in (a)  
9 through (d) of this subsection.

10 (3) No vehicle or combination over ten thousand pounds may be  
11 driven in the left-hand lane of a roadway having three or more lanes  
12 for traffic moving in one direction except when preparing for a left  
13 turn at an intersection, exit, or into a private road or driveway when  
14 a left turn is legally permitted. This subsection does not apply to a  
15 vehicle using a high-occupancy vehicle lane. A high-occupancy vehicle  
16 lane is not considered the left-hand lane of a roadway. The department  
17 of transportation, in consultation with the Washington state patrol,  
18 shall adopt rules specifying those circumstances where it is  
19 permissible for other vehicles to use the left lane in case of  
20 emergency or to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic.

21 (4) It is a traffic infraction to drive continuously in the left  
22 lane of a multilane roadway when it impedes the flow of other traffic.

23 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for moving  
24 traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall  
25 not be driven to the left of the center line of the roadway except when  
26 authorized by official traffic control devices designating certain  
27 lanes to the left side of the center of the roadway for use by traffic  
28 not otherwise permitted to use such lanes, or except as permitted under  
29 subsection (1)(b) of this section. However, this subsection shall not  
30 be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making  
31 a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

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