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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5177**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Wood, Prince, Winsley, Deccio and Johnson)

Read first time 02/10/97.

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 limited access roadway having three  
12 or more lanes for traffic moving in one direction except when preparing  
13 for a left turn at an intersection, exit, or into a private road or  
14 driveway when a left turn is legally permitted. This subsection does  
15 not apply to a vehicle using a high-occupancy vehicle lane or a bus  
16 that regularly transports passengers for compensation or free of  
17 charge. A high-occupancy vehicle lane is not considered the left-hand  
18 lane of a roadway. The department of transportation, in consultation  
19 with the Washington state patrol, shall adopt rules specifying those  
20 circumstances where it is permissible for other vehicles to use the  
21 left lane in case of emergency or to facilitate the orderly flow of  
22 traffic.

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

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

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