

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5177**

55th Legislature  
1997 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 21, 1997  
YEAS 42 NAYS 1

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 10, 1997  
YEAS 95 NAYS 3

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5177** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5177**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

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

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

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

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