
SENATE BILL 6113

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker and Kline

Read first time 02/22/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes by ultra-
2 fuel-efficient vehicles; and amending RCW 46.61.165 and 47.52.025.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.165 and 1999 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The state department of transportation and the local authorities
7 are authorized to reserve all or any portion of any highway under their
8 respective jurisdictions, including any designated lane or ramp, for
9 the exclusive or preferential use of public transportation vehicles or
10 private motor vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified number of
11 passengers when such limitation will increase the efficient utilization
12 of the highway or will aid in the conservation of energy resources.
13 The department shall open any such lanes to use by single-occupant
14 vehicles that are ultra-fuel-efficient. As used in this section,
15 "ultra-fuel-efficient" means a vehicle that averages greater than fifty
16 miles per gallon of fuel, including but not limited to a gasoline-
17 electric hybrid vehicle. Regulations authorizing such exclusive or
18 preferential use of a highway facility may be declared to be effective
19 at all times or at specified times of day or on specified days.

1 Violation of a restriction of highway usage prescribed by the
2 appropriate authority under this section is a traffic infraction.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.52.025 and 1974 ex.s. c 133 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Highway authorities of the state, counties, and incorporated cities
6 and towns, in addition to the specific powers granted in this chapter,
7 shall also have, and may exercise, relative to limited access
8 facilities, any and all additional authority, now or hereafter vested
9 in them relative to highways or streets within their respective
10 jurisdictions, and may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the use of such
11 limited access facilities by various classes of vehicles or traffic.
12 Such highway authorities may reserve any limited access facility or
13 portions thereof, including designated lanes or ramps for the exclusive
14 or preferential use of public transportation vehicles, privately owned
15 buses, or private motor vehicles carrying not less than a specified
16 number of passengers when such limitation will increase the efficient
17 utilization of the highway facility or will aid in the conservation of
18 energy resources. The department shall open any such lanes to use by
19 single-occupant vehicles that are ultra-fuel-efficient. As used in
20 this section, "ultra-fuel-efficient" means a vehicle that averages
21 greater than fifty miles per gallon of fuel, including but not limited
22 to a gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle. Regulations authorizing such
23 exclusive or preferential use of a highway facility may be declared to
24 be effective at all time or at specified times of day or on specified
25 days.

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