
SENATE BILL 6659

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Senators Schow, Morton, Owen, Oke, Heavey, Prince and Prentice

Read first time 01/23/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes; amending
2 RCW 46.61.165; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.165 and 1991 sp.s. c 15 s 67 are each amended to
5 read 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
10 or private motor vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified number of
11 passengers))~~ high-occupancy vehicles when such limitation will increase
12 the efficient utilization of the highway or will aid in the
13 conservation of energy resources. ~~((There is hereby appropriated from
14 the transportation fund--state to the department of transportation,
15 program C for the period ending June 30, 1993, an additional \$15
16 million for the sole purpose of expediting completion of the HOV core
17 lane system.))~~ Regulations authorizing such exclusive or preferential
18 use of a highway facility may be declared to be effective at all times
19 or at specified times of day or on specified days. ~~((The department~~

1 ~~shall evaluate the efficacy of the vehicle occupancy requirements and~~
2 ~~shall report to the legislative transportation committee by January 1,~~
3 ~~1992.)~~)

4 As used in this section, "high-occupancy vehicles" include:

5 (1) Private motor vehicles carrying a minimum number of occupants
6 as designated by traffic control devices; and

7 (2) Regardless of the number of occupants:

8 (a) Motorcycles;

9 (b) Rubber-tired municipal transit vehicles;

10 (c) For hire vehicles;

11 (d) Auto stages;

12 (e) Vehicles used for transportation of passengers without
13 compensation, such as courtesy vans, private carrier buses, school
14 buses, and vehicles operating under chapter 81.66 RCW;

15 (f) Other vehicles as authorized by rule of the department of
16 transportation.

17 Except when preparing to exit to the left, trucks over ten thousand
18 pounds are prohibited from using high-occupancy vehicle lanes,
19 regardless of the number of occupants.

20 It is unlawful for the driver of a vehicle specified in subsection
21 (2)(c) through (f) of this section to travel alone in a high-occupancy
22 vehicle lane without having first obtained from the department of
23 transportation, upon payment of an appropriate fee, a sticker
24 identifying the vehicle as an authorized high-occupancy vehicle. The
25 sticker must be clearly affixed to the vehicle in a manner determined
26 by rule of the department. Operating without a sticker or fraudulent
27 use of a sticker is a traffic infraction punishable by a monetary
28 penalty of not less than one hundred dollars.

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