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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5237**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Bailey, Johnson, Patterson, Rinehart, Vognild, Anderson, Cantu, McCaslin, Oke, Nelson, Conner and Erwin).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to proper lane travel; and amending RCW 46.61.100.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (3) Upon any fully controlled limited access facility having three  
14 or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, no motor  
15 vehicle with a licensed gross weight of twenty-six thousand pounds or  
16 more may be driven in the left lane, except as provided in subsection  
17 (2)(c) of this section. This provision does not restrict a qualifying  
18 vehicle from using the left lane when that lane is a high occupancy  
19 vehicle lane.

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

22 (~~(4)~~) (5) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for moving  
23 traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall  
24 not be driven to the left of the center line of the roadway except when  
25 authorized by official traffic control devices designating certain  
26 lanes to the left side of the center of the roadway for use by traffic  
27 not otherwise permitted to use such lanes, or except as permitted under  
28 subsection (1)(b) of this section. However, this subsection shall not  
29 be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making  
30 a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.