

SENATE BILL 5237

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Bailey, Johnson, Patterson, Rinehart, Vognild, Anderson, Cantu, McCaslin, Oke, Nelson, Conner and Erwin.

Read first time January 24, 1991. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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
3 moving in the same direction, all vehicles shall be driven in the
4 right-hand lane then available for traffic, except (a) when overtaking
5 and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, (b) when
6 traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow, (c) when moving
7 left to allow traffic to merge, or (d) 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~~)
10 truck, truck tractor, tractor, motor home, travel trailer, auto stage,
11 private carrier bus, school bus, charter bus, excursion bus, or public
12 transportation vehicle with a licensed gross weight of ten thousand
13 pounds or more shall be driven only in the right-hand lane except under
14 the conditions enumerated in (a) through (d) of this subsection.

15 (3) Upon all roadways having three or more lanes for traffic moving
16 in the same direction, no truck, truck tractor, tractor, motor home,
17 travel trailer, auto stage, private carrier bus, school bus, charter
18 bus, excursion bus, or public transportation vehicle with a licensed
19 gross weight of ten thousand pounds or more may be driven in the left
20 lane, except as provided in subsection (2)(d) of this section. This
21 provision does not restrict a qualifying vehicle from using the left
22 lane when that lane is a high occupancy vehicle lane.

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

1 subsection (1)(b) of this section. However, this subsection shall not
2 be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making
3 a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.