
HOUSE BILL 1216

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, O'Brien, Pearson, Fromhold, Ericks, McCune, Lovick, Hurst, Roberts, Ormsby, Schual-Berke and Morrell

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to required lanes of travel for 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 1997 c 253 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) (~~Upon all roadways of sufficient width~~) A vehicle shall be
7 driven upon the right half of the roadway in the furthest most right-
8 hand lane of travel, except as follows:

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

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

16 (c) (~~Upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes and providing~~
17 ~~for two way movement traffic under the rules applicable thereon; or~~
18 ~~(d)~~) Upon a street or highway restricted to one-way traffic.

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

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

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

30 (5) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for moving traffic
31 and providing for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall not be
32 driven to the left of the center line of the roadway except when
33 authorized by official traffic control devices designating certain
34 lanes to the left side of the center of the roadway for use by traffic
35 not otherwise permitted to use such lanes, or except as permitted under
36 subsection (1)(b) of this section. However, this subsection shall not

1 be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making
2 a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

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