
SENATE BILL 5561

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Erwin, Thorsness, Hansen, Anderson, Johnson, McMullen, Sellar, Bluechel, von Reichbauer, Nelson and A. Smith.

Read first time February 7, 1991. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to driving on multilane highways; amending RCW
2 46.61.100; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that increased
5 population growth in our state has spawned increased traffic and its
6 accompanying problems, including traffic delay and increased accident
7 potential. The legislature also finds that better public awareness of
8 rules of the road will help alleviate these problems.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.100 and 1986 c 93 s 2 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) The department of transportation shall, at appropriate places
2 on multilane state and interstate highways, place signs making the
3 following or substantially similar statement: "Keep right except to
4 pass." The department shall place such signs in sufficient quantity to
5 adequately notify drivers of the existence of the requirements of this
6 section.