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HOUSE BILL 2751

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Representative Clements

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to facilitation of traffic flow over Snoqualmie  
2 Pass; amending RCW 46.61.100; and adding a new section to chapter 46.61  
3 RCW.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.100 and 1997 c 253 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            (1) Upon all roadways of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven  
8 upon the right half of the roadway, 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;

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 vehicles shall be driven in the right-hand  
3 lane then available for traffic, except (a) when overtaking and passing  
4 another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, (b) when traveling at  
5 a speed greater than the traffic flow, (c) when moving left to allow  
6 traffic to merge, (~~(d)~~) (d) when preparing for a left turn at an  
7 intersection, exit, or into a private road or driveway when such left  
8 turn is legally permitted, or (e) under conditions permitted in section  
9 2 of this act. 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)~~) (e) 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 traffic.

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

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.61 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        The department of transportation, in consultation with the  
4 Washington state patrol, shall adopt rules for dividing vehicular  
5 traffic over Snoqualmie Pass during winter driving conditions or other  
6 hazardous driving conditions. The paramount guideline in establishing  
7 the rules is to provide for the highest level of safety and safe  
8 driving conditions for drivers and passengers. Furthermore, the  
9 department shall incorporate the following guidelines:

10        (1) A vehicle towing a trailer or a vehicle or combination over ten  
11 thousand pounds may be driven only in the right-hand lane, except to  
12 pass. All other vehicles are to keep left;

13        (2) The department must notify the traveling public that the rules  
14 are in effect with the use of existing variable message signs and the  
15 traffic advisory radio message system;

16        (3) This section only applies to Interstate 90;

17        (4) Implementation of divided vehicular traffic may not be  
18 implemented when only two or fewer lanes of traffic are operational for  
19 the direction of traffic on the section affected.

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