
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5121

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Highways & Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Rossi, Benton, Carlson, Zarelli, T. Sheldon, Deccio, Esser, Hale, Hewitt, Johnson, Schmidt, Honeyford, Morton, Sheahan, Mulliken and Oke)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to high-occupancy vehicle lanes; amending RCW
2 46.61.165, 47.52.025, and 81.100.020; adding a new section to chapter
3 46.61 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 47.52 RCW; and adding new
4 sections to chapter 43.131 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.165 and 1999 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The state department of transportation and the local
9 authorities are authorized to reserve all or any portion of any highway
10 under their respective jurisdictions, including any designated lane or
11 ramp, for the exclusive or preferential use of the following vehicles
12 when the limitation will increase the efficient use of the highway
13 facility or will aid in the conservation of energy resources: (a)
14 Public transportation vehicles ((~~or~~)); (b) private motor vehicles
15 carrying no fewer than a specified number of passengers ((~~when such~~
16 limitation will increase the efficient utilization of the highway or
17 will aid in the conservation of energy resources)); or (c) motorcycles.

18 (2) Regulations authorizing such exclusive or preferential use of
19 a highway facility may be declared to be effective at all times or at

1 specified times of day or on specified days. Violation of a
2 restriction of highway usage prescribed by the appropriate authority
3 under this section is a traffic infraction.

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

6 (1) Under RCW 46.61.165 and 47.52.025, exclusive use of freeway
7 high-occupancy vehicle lanes must be restricted solely to the hours of
8 6:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. Monday
9 through Friday, excluding state holidays, on the following facilities:

- 10 (a) Interstate 405;
11 (b) State route number 167;
12 (c) Interstate 90 east of Interstate 405;
13 (d) State route number 520 east of Interstate 405.

14 (2) The following facilities are exempt from this section:

- 15 (a) High-occupancy direct access ramps;
16 (b) High-occupancy vehicle freeway queue bypasses; and
17 (c) High-occupancy vehicle ramp meter bypasses.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.52.025 and 1974 ex.s. c 133 s 1 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) Highway authorities of the state, counties, and incorporated
21 cities and towns, in addition to the specific powers granted in this
22 chapter, shall also have, and may exercise, relative to limited access
23 facilities, any and all additional authority, now or hereafter vested
24 in them relative to highways or streets within their respective
25 jurisdictions, and may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the use of such
26 limited access facilities by various classes of vehicles or traffic.
27 Such highway authorities may reserve any limited access facility or
28 portions thereof, including designated lanes or ramps for the exclusive
29 or preferential use of the following vehicles when the limitation will
30 increase the efficient use of the highway facility or will aid in the
31 conservation of energy resources: (a) Public transportation
32 vehicles(~~(, privately owned buses, or)~~); (b) private motor vehicles
33 carrying not less than a specified number of passengers (~~(when such~~
34 ~~limitation will increase the efficient utilization of the highway~~
35 ~~facility or will aid in the conservation of energy resources)~~); or (c)
36 motorcycles.

1 (5) "High_occupancy vehicle program" means advertising the high_
2 occupancy vehicle system, promoting carpool, vanpool, and transit use,
3 providing vanpool vehicles, and enforcement of driving restrictions
4 governing high_occupancy vehicle lanes.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Sections 2 and 4 of this act must be reviewed under this chapter
8 before June 30, 2008. The department of transportation shall provide
9 the information necessary for the joint legislative audit and review
10 committee to provide the required review.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 The following acts or parts of acts as now existing or hereafter
14 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, 2009:

15 (1) Section 2 of this act; and

16 (2) Section 4 of this act.

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