
SENATE BILL 6436

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Horn, Murray, Swecker, Mulliken, Esser, Oke, Stevens and Benton

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

1 AN ACT Relating to high-occupancy vehicle lane restrictions; and
2 amending RCW 46.61.165, 47.52.025, and 81.100.020.

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

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

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

16 (2) Regulations authorizing such exclusive or preferential use of
17 a highway facility may be declared to be effective at all times or at
18 specified times of day or on specified days except the weekend periods

1 of Friday at 7:00 p.m. to Monday at 6:00 a.m. The Interstate 90
2 reversible lanes facilities are not subject to the weekend exception.

3 (3) Violation of a restriction of highway usage prescribed by the
4 appropriate authority under this section is a traffic infraction.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.52.025 and 1974 ex.s. c 133 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

24 (2) Regulations authorizing such exclusive or preferential use of
25 a highway facility may be declared to be effective at all time or at
26 specified times of day or on specified days except the weekend periods
27 of Friday at 7:00 p.m. to Monday at 6:00 a.m. The Interstate 90
28 reversible lanes facilities are not subject to the weekend exception.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 81.100.020 and 1990 c 43 s 13 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
32 this section apply throughout this chapter.

33 (1) "Transit agency" means a city that operates a transit system,
34 a public transportation benefit area, a county transportation
35 authority, or a metropolitan municipal corporation.

1 (2) The "high_occupancy vehicle system" includes high_occupancy
2 vehicle lanes, related high_occupancy vehicle facilities, and high_
3 occupancy vehicle programs.

4 (3) "High_occupancy vehicle lanes" mean lanes reserved for public
5 transportation vehicles only or public transportation vehicles and
6 private vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified number of
7 passengers under RCW 46.61.165 and 47.52.025.

8 (4) "Related facilities" means park and ride lots, park and pool
9 lots, ramps, bypasses, turnouts, signal preemption, and other
10 improvements designed to maximize use of the high_occupancy vehicle
11 system.

12 (5) "High_occupancy vehicle program" means advertising the high_
13 occupancy vehicle system, promoting carpool, vanpool, and transit use,
14 providing vanpool vehicles, and enforcement of driving restrictions
15 governing high_occupancy vehicle lanes.

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