
SENATE BILL 5052

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Dansel and Palumbo

Read first time 01/11/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the penalty amount for certain left
2 lane driving; amending RCW 46.61.100; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.100 and 2007 c 83 s 2 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, except as follows:

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

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

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

17 (d) Upon a street or highway restricted to one-way traffic; or

18 (e) Upon a highway having three lanes or less, when approaching a
19 stationary authorized emergency vehicle, tow truck or other vehicle
20 providing roadside assistance while operating warning lights with

1 three hundred sixty degree visibility, or police vehicle as described
2 under RCW 46.61.212(~~(+2)~~) (1)(d)(ii).

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

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

28 (4) It is a traffic infraction to drive continuously in the left
29 lane of a multilane roadway when it impedes the flow of other
30 traffic. The base penalty amount for this infraction is seventy
31 dollars.

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

1 center line in making a left turn into or from an alley, private road
2 or driveway.

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