

USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: L. Alma Mansell

AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AMENDING LEFT LANE RESTRICTION PROVISIONS; PROVIDING CERTAIN PENALTIES; AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

41-6-53.5, as enacted by Chapter 154, Laws of Utah 1996

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **41-6-53.5** is amended to read:

41-6-53.5. Left lane restrictions -- Exceptions -- Other lane restrictions -- Penalties.

(1) As used in this section "general purpose lane" means a highway lane open to vehicular traffic except:

(a) a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane; and

(b) an auxiliary lane that begins as a freeway on-ramp and ends as part of the next freeway off-ramp.

~~[(1)]~~ (2) A person ~~[operating a vehicle drawing a trailer or semitrailer or operating a vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 12,001 or more pounds]~~ may not operate ~~[the] a~~ vehicle ~~[or vehicles]~~ in the left most general purpose lane of a highway or section of a highway ~~[if the highway]~~ which has three or more general purpose lanes in the same direction if the person's:

(a) vehicle is drawing a trailer or semitrailer; or

(b) vehicle or combination of vehicle has a gross vehicle weight of 12,001 or more pounds.

~~[(2) This section]~~ (3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a ~~[vehicle]~~ person operating a vehicle who is:

(a) preparing to turn left or taking a highway split or exit on the left;

(b) responding to emergency conditions;

(c) avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the [~~right lane~~] highway from an acceleration or merging lane; or

(d) following direction signs that direct use of a designated lane.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) (a) The Department of Transportation or local authorities may designate a specific lane or lanes of travel for any type of vehicle on a highway or portion of a highway under their respective jurisdiction for the:

(i) safety of the public;

(ii) efficient maintenance of a highway; or

(iii) use of high occupancy vehicles.

(b) The lane designation under Subsection (4)(a) is effective when appropriate signs giving notice are erected on the highway or portion of the highway.

(5) A person who operates a vehicle in violation of Subsection (2) or in violation of the restrictions made under Subsection (4) is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.