

HIGHWAY AMENDMENTS

2000 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Blake D. Chard

AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AMENDING CERTAIN FOLLOWING TO CLOSE PROVISIONS; PROVIDING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; PROHIBITING DRIVING OVER CERTAIN DELINEATED AREAS ON A HIGHWAY; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; AMENDING CERTAIN YIELD PROVISIONS; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES.

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

AMENDS:

41-6-62, as last amended by Chapter 138, Laws of Utah 1987

41-6-75.5, as last amended by Chapter 138, Laws of Utah 1987

ENACTS:

41-6-63.30, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **41-6-62** is amended to read:

41-6-62. Following another vehicle -- Safe distance -- Exceptions.

(1) The operator of a vehicle:

(a) may not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having regard for the:

(i) speed of the vehicles [~~and the~~];

(ii) traffic upon the highway; and [~~the~~]

(iii) condition of the highway[-]; and

[~~(2)~~] (b) [~~Motor vehicles operated upon any roadway outside of an urban district, whether in a caravan, motorcade, or otherwise, or whether or not towing other vehicles,~~] shall allow sufficient space [~~between each~~] in front of the vehicle [~~or combination of vehicles~~] to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy the space [~~without danger. This provision~~].

(2) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to funeral processions or to congested traffic

conditions resulting in prevailing vehicle speeds of less than 35 miles per hour.

Section 2. Section **41-6-63.30** is enacted to read:

41-6-63.30. Definitions -- Gore area -- Driving over gore prohibited -- Exceptions --

Penalties.

(1) As used in this section, "gore area" means the area delineated by two solid white lines that is between a continuing lane of a through roadway and a lane used to enter or exit the continuing lane including similar areas between merging or splitting highways.

(2) (a) A person may not operate a vehicle over, across, or within any part of a gore area.

(b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to:

(i) a person operating a vehicle that is disabled; or

(ii) an operator of an authorized emergency vehicle under conditions described under Section 41-6-14.

(3) A person who violates Subsection (2) is guilty of class C misdemeanor.

Section 3. Section **41-6-75.5** is amended to read:

41-6-75.5. Merging lanes -- Yielding.

The operator of a vehicle traveling in a lane that is about to merge into ~~[another]~~ a continuing lane, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the continuing lane ~~[or lanes into which the lane of the operator is merging]~~ and which are so close as to be an immediate hazard. ~~[This section does not apply to entry lanes to limited access highways.]~~