

Part 7 Driving on Right Side of Highway and Passing

41-6a-701 Duty to operate vehicle on right side of roadway -- Exceptions.

- (1) On all roadways of sufficient width, a person operating a vehicle shall operate the vehicle on the right half of the roadway, except:
 - (a) when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing that movement;
 - (b) when an obstruction requires operating the vehicle to the left of the center of the roadway subject to the provisions of Subsection (2);
 - (c) when overtaking and passing a bicycle or moped proceeding in the same direction at a speed less than the reasonable speed of traffic that is present requires operating the vehicle to the left of the center of the roadway subject to the provisions of Subsection (2);
 - (d) on a roadway divided into three marked lanes for traffic under the applicable rules; or
 - (e) on a roadway designed and signposted for one-way traffic.
- (2)
 - (a) A person operating a vehicle as described under Subsection (1) shall yield the right-of-way to a vehicle:
 - (i) traveling in the proper direction on a roadway; and
 - (ii) that is within a distance constituting an immediate hazard.
 - (b) When overtaking and passing a bicycle or moped under Subsection (1)(c), a person operating a vehicle shall not pass a bicycle or moped proceeding in the same direction if the pass cannot be made safely, including under any of the following conditions:
 - (i) when approaching or upon the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the operator's view is in any way obstructed;
 - (ii) when approaching within 100 feet of, or traversing, any intersection or railroad grade crossing unless otherwise indicated by an official traffic control device;
 - (iii) when the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel; or
 - (iv) when the pass cannot be made in accordance with Section 41-6a-706.5.
- (3) A person operating a vehicle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall operate the vehicle in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when:
 - (a) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
 - (b) preparing to turn left; or
 - (c) taking a different highway or an exit on the left.

Amended by Chapter 293, 2013 General Session

41-6a-702 Left lane restrictions -- Exceptions -- Other lane restrictions -- Penalties.

- (1) As used in this section and Section 41-6a-704, "general purpose lane" means a highway lane open to vehicular traffic but does not include a designated:
 - (a) high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane; or
 - (b) auxiliary lane that begins as a freeway on-ramp and ends as part of the next freeway off-ramp.
- (2) On a freeway or section of a freeway which has three or more general purpose lanes in the same direction, a person may not operate a vehicle in the left most general purpose lane if the

person's vehicle or combination of vehicles has a gross vehicle weight rating of 18,001 or more pounds.

- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person operating a vehicle who is:
 - (a) preparing to turn left or taking a different highway split or an exit on the left;
 - (b) responding to emergency conditions;
 - (c) avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the highway from an acceleration or merging lane; or
 - (d) following direction signs that direct use of a designated lane.
- (4)
 - (a) A highway authority may designate a specific lane or lanes of travel for any type of vehicle on a highway or portion of a highway under its 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 or roadway markings giving notice are erected on the highway or portion of the highway.
- (5)
 - (a) Subject to Subsection (5)(b), the lane designation under Subsection (4)(a)(iii) shall allow a vehicle with a clean fuel vehicle decal issued in accordance with Section 72-6-121 to travel in lanes designated for the use of high occupancy vehicles regardless of the number of occupants as permitted by federal law or federal regulation.
 - (b)
 - (i) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Transportation may make rules to allow a vehicle with a clean fuel vehicle decal to travel in lanes designated for the use of high occupancy vehicles regardless of the number of occupants as permitted by federal law or federal regulation.
 - (ii) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b)(iii), the Department of Transportation may not issue more than 6,000 clean fuel vehicle decals under Section 72-6-121.
 - (iii) The Department of Transportation may, through rules made under Subsection (5)(b)
 - (i), increase the number of clean fuel vehicle decals issued in accordance with Section 72-6-121 beyond the minimum described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii) if the increased issuance will allow the Department of Transportation to continue to meet its goals for operational management of the lane designated under Subsection (4)(a)(iii).
- (6) A public transportation vehicle may operate in a lane designated under Subsection (4)(a)(iii) regardless of the number of occupants as permitted by federal law and regulation.
- (7) A person who operates a vehicle in violation of Subsection (2) or in violation of the restrictions made under Subsection (4) is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 74, 2020 General Session

41-6a-703 Passing vehicles proceeding in opposite directions.

- (1) In accordance with Section 41-6a-701, a person operating a vehicle proceeding in an opposite direction from another vehicle shall pass the other vehicle to the right.
- (2) On a roadway having width for not more than one line of traffic in each direction, the operator of a vehicle shall, as nearly as possible, give to the other at least 1/2 of the main traveled portion of the roadway.
- (3) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-704 Overtaking and passing vehicles proceeding in same direction.

- (1)
 - (a) Except as provided in Section 41-6a-718, on any highway:
 - (i) the operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall:
 - (A) except as provided under Section 41-6a-705, promptly pass the overtaken vehicle on the left at a safe distance; and
 - (B) enter a right-hand lane or the right side of the roadway only when safely clear of the overtaken vehicle;
 - (ii) the operator of an overtaken vehicle:
 - (A) shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle; and
 - (B) may not increase the speed of the vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.
 - (b) The exemption from the minimum speed regulations for a vehicle operating on a grade under Section 41-6a-605 does not exempt the vehicle from promptly passing a vehicle as required under Subsection (1)(a)(i)(A).
- (2) On a highway having more than one lane in the same direction, the operator of a vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane:
 - (a) shall, upon being overtaken by another vehicle in the same lane, yield to the overtaking vehicle by moving safely to a lane to the right; and
 - (b) may not impede the movement or free flow of traffic in the left general purpose lane.
- (3) An operator of a vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane that has a vehicle following directly behind the operator's vehicle at a distance so that less than two seconds elapse before reaching the location of the operator's vehicle when space is available for the operator to yield to the overtaking vehicle by traveling in the right-hand lane is prima facie evidence that the operator is violating Subsection (2).
- (4) The provisions of Subsection (2) do not apply to an operator of a vehicle traveling in the left general purpose lane when:
 - (a) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction in accordance with Subsection (1)(a)(i);
 - (b) preparing to turn left or taking a different highway or an exit on the left;
 - (c) responding to emergency conditions;
 - (d) avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the highway from an acceleration or merging lane; or
 - (e) following the direction of a traffic-control device that directs the use of a designated lane.
- (5) An individual may engage in lane filtering only when the following conditions exist:
 - (a) the individual is operating a motorcycle;
 - (b) the individual is on a roadway divided into two or more adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel;
 - (c) the individual is on a roadway with a speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less;
 - (d) the vehicle being overtaken in the same lane is stopped;
 - (e) the motorcycle is traveling at a speed of 15 miles per hour or less; and
 - (f) the movement may be made safely.
- (6) A violation of Subsection (1), (2), or (5) is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 219, 2023 General Session

41-6a-705 Passing on right -- When permissible.

- (1) Subject to Section 41-6a-718, the operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass on the right of another vehicle only:
 - (a) when the vehicle overtaken is making or preparing to make a left turn; or
 - (b) on a roadway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width for two or more lines of vehicles moving lawfully in the direction being traveled by the overtaking vehicle.
- (2) The operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle on the right only under conditions permitting the movement with safety.
- (3) Except for a person operating a bicycle, the operator of a vehicle may not overtake and pass another vehicle if the movement is made by driving off the roadway.
- (4) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 219, 2023 General Session

41-6a-706 Limitation on passing -- Prohibitions.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Section 41-6a-707, on a two-way highway, a person may not operate a vehicle to the left side of the center of the roadway to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless the left side is:
 - (a) clearly visible; and
 - (b) free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance to permit the passing movement to be completed without interfering with the operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction in accordance with Subsection (2).
- (2) The person operating the overtaking vehicle shall return the vehicle to an authorized lane of travel:
 - (a) as soon as practical; and
 - (b) if the passing movement involves the use of a lane authorized for vehicles approaching in the opposite direction, before coming within 200 feet of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.
- (3) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-706.5 Definitions -- Operation of motor vehicle near a vulnerable user of a highway prohibited -- Endangering a vulnerable user of a highway prohibited.

- (1) As used in this section, "vulnerable user of a highway" means:
 - (a) a pedestrian, including a person engaged in work upon a highway or upon utilities facilities along a highway or providing emergency services within the right-of-way of a highway;
 - (b) a person riding an animal; or
 - (c) a person operating any of the following on a highway:
 - (i) a farm tractor or implement of husbandry, without an enclosed shell;
 - (ii) a skateboard;
 - (iii) roller skates;
 - (iv) in-line skates;
 - (v) a bicycle;
 - (vi) an electric-assisted bicycle;
 - (vii) an electric personal assistive mobility device;
 - (viii) a moped;
 - (ix) a motor assisted scooter;

- (x) a motor-driven cycle;
 - (xi) a motorcycle;
 - (xii) a manual wheelchair; or
 - (xiii) a golf cart.
- (2) An operator of a motor vehicle may not knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly:
- (a) operate a motor vehicle within three feet of a vulnerable user of a highway;
 - (b) distract or attempt to distract a vulnerable user of a highway for the purpose of causing violence or injury to the vulnerable user of a highway;
 - (c) force or attempt to force a vulnerable user of a highway off of the roadway for a purpose unrelated to public safety; or
 - (d) cause a motor vehicle to emit an excessive amount of exhaust in a manner that distracts or endangers a vulnerable user of a highway.
- (3)
- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a violation of Subsection (2) is an infraction.
 - (b) A violation of Subsection (2) that results in bodily injury to the vulnerable user of a highway is a class C misdemeanor.

Amended by Chapter 84, 2020 General Session

41-6a-707 Limitations on driving on left side of road -- Exceptions.

- (1) A person may not operate a vehicle on the left side of the roadway:
- (a) when approaching or on a crest of a grade or a curve on the highway where the person's view is obstructed within a distance which creates a hazard if another vehicle approached from the opposite direction;
 - (b) when approaching within 100 feet of or traversing any intersection or railroad grade crossing unless otherwise indicated by a traffic-control device or a peace officer; or
 - (c) when the view is obstructed while approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply:
- (a) on a one-way roadway;
 - (b) under the conditions described in Subsection 41-6a-701(1)(b); or
 - (c) to a person operating a vehicle turning left onto or from an alley, private road, or driveway.
- (3) A violation of Subsection (1) is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-708 Signs and markings on roadway -- No-passing zones -- Exceptions.

- (1)
- (a) A highway authority may designate no-passing zones on any portion of a highway under its jurisdiction if the highway authority determines passing is especially hazardous.
 - (b) A highway authority shall designate a no-passing zone under Subsection (1)(a) by placing appropriate traffic-control devices on the highway.
- (2) A person operating a vehicle may not drive on the left side of:
- (a) the roadway within the no-passing zone; or
 - (b) any pavement striping designed to mark the no-passing zone.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply:
- (a) under the conditions described under Subsections 41-6a-701(1)(b) and (c); or
 - (b) to a person operating a vehicle turning left onto or from an alley, private road, or driveway.

(4) A violation of Subsection (2) is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-709 One-way traffic.

- (1) A highway authority may designate any highway, roadway, part of a roadway, or specific lanes under the highway authority's jurisdiction for one direction of vehicle travel at all times as indicated by traffic-control devices.
- (2) On a roadway designated for one-way traffic, a person operating a vehicle shall operate the vehicle in the direction indicated by traffic-control devices.
- (3) A person operating a vehicle in a roundabout shall operate the vehicle only to the right of the roundabout island.
- (4) A violation of Subsection (2) or (3) is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-710 Roadway divided into marked lanes -- Provisions -- Traffic-control devices.

On a roadway divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic the following provisions apply and any violation of this section is an infraction:

- (1)
 - (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(c), a person operating a vehicle:
 - (i) shall keep the vehicle as nearly as practical entirely within a single lane; and
 - (ii) may not move the vehicle from the lane until the operator has reasonably determined the movement can be made safely.
 - (b) A determination under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is reasonable if a reasonable person acting under the same conditions and having regard for actual and potential hazards then existing would determine that the movement could be made safely.
 - (c) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to an individual operating a motorcycle engaging in lane filtering as described in Section 41-6a-704.
- (2)
 - (a) On a roadway divided into three or more lanes and providing for two-way movement of traffic, a person operating a vehicle may not drive in the center lane except:
 - (i) when overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction, and when the center lane is:
 - (A) clear of traffic within a safe distance; and
 - (B) not a two-way left turn lane;
 - (ii) in preparation of making or completing a left turn in compliance with Section 41-6a-801; or
 - (iii) where the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the same direction that the vehicle is proceeding as indicated by traffic-control devices.
 - (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(i) and in accordance with Subsection (1)(a), a person operating a vehicle may drive in a center lane that is a two-way left turn lane if:
 - (i) the center lane is:
 - (A) on a roadway divided into three or more lanes that provides for two-way movement of traffic; and
 - (B) clear of traffic within a safe distance;
 - (ii) there is only one lane of travel in the direction the person operating the vehicle is traveling; and

- (iii) the person operating the vehicle is overtaking and passing a bicycle or moped that is moving at less than the reasonable speed of traffic that is present.
- (3)
- (a) A highway authority may erect traffic-control devices directing specified traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway.
 - (b) An operator of a vehicle shall obey the directions of a traffic-control device erected under Subsection (3)(a).

Amended by Chapter 49, 2019 General Session

41-6a-711 Following another vehicle -- Safe distance -- Exceptions -- Penalty.

- (1) As used in this section, "connected platooning system" means a system that uses vehicle-to-vehicle communication to electronically coordinate the speed and braking of a lead vehicle with the speed and braking of one or more following vehicles.
- (2) 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;
 - (ii) traffic upon the highway; and
 - (iii) condition of the highway; and
 - (b) shall follow at a distance so that at least two seconds elapse before reaching the location of the vehicle directly in front of the operator's vehicle.
- (3) Subsection (2)(b) does not apply to:
 - (a) funeral processions or to congested traffic conditions resulting in prevailing vehicle speeds of less than 35 miles per hour; or
 - (b) the operator of a vehicle that is:
 - (i) part of a connected platooning system; and
 - (ii) not the lead vehicle.
- (4) A violation of Subsection (2) is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 263, 2018 General Session

41-6a-712 Divided highway -- Use of right-hand side -- Crossing only where permitted.

- (1) A person operating a vehicle on a divided highway shall use the right-hand roadway unless directed or permitted to use another roadway by a traffic-control device or a peace officer.
- (2) A person operating a vehicle may not operate the vehicle over, across, or within any dividing space, median, or barrier of a divided highway, except when:
 - (a) authorized by a traffic-control device or a peace officer; or
 - (b) operating a tow truck in response to a customer service call and the tow truck motor carrier has already received authorization from the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the vehicle to be towed is located.
- (3) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-713 Driving over gore area or island prohibited -- Exceptions -- Penalties.

- (1)

- (a) A person may not operate a vehicle over, across, or within any part of a gore area or an island.
- (b) Subsection (1)(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 41-6a-208.
- (2) A person who violates Subsection (1) is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-714 Freeway and controlled-access highways -- Driving onto and from highways where permitted.

- (1) A person may not operate a vehicle onto or from any freeway or other controlled-access highway except at entrances and exits established by the highway authority having jurisdiction over the highway.
- (2) A violation of Subsection (1) is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-715 Controlled-access highways -- Prohibiting use by class or kind of traffic -- Traffic-control devices.

- (1) A highway authority may regulate or prohibit the use of any controlled-access highway within its respective jurisdiction by any class or kind of traffic which is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic.
- (2) A highway authority may restrict traffic on a highway to specific vehicle equipment of capabilities due to weather conditions for the safe movement of traffic.
- (3) The highway authority shall erect and maintain traffic-control devices on the controlled-access highway on which the regulations or prohibitions are applicable.

Amended by Chapter 431, 2019 General Session

41-6a-716 Driving on tollway without paying toll prohibited.

- (1) As used in this section, "tollway" has the same meaning as defined in Section 72-6-118.
- (2) The operator of a vehicle traveling on a tollway shall pay the toll imposed by the department or other entity for that tollway under Section 72-6-118.
- (3) A person who violates Subsection (2) is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-717 Use of runaway vehicle ramps.

- (1) A person may not use a runaway vehicle ramp unless the person is in an emergency situation requiring the use of the ramp to stop the person's vehicle.
- (2) A person may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle on a runaway vehicle ramp or in the pathway of the runaway vehicle ramp.
- (3) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-718 Operation of a snowplow -- Approaching a snowplow -- Prohibition to pass.

- (1)
 - (a) A snowplow operator shall ensure that a snowplow in operation on a highway displays flashing yellow lights.
 - (b) An individual operating a snowplow as an agent of a highway authority, while engaged in the removal of snow or ice on a highway, may not be charged with a violation under this chapter related to parking, standing, turning, backing, or yielding the right-of-way.
 - (c) Notwithstanding the exemptions described in Subsection (1)(b), an individual operating a snowplow shall operate the snowplow with reasonable care.
- (2) If a snowplow is displaying flashing yellow lights, an individual operating a vehicle in the vicinity of the snowplow may not pass or overtake a snowplow on a side of the snowplow where a plow blade is deployed.
- (3) If three or more snowplows are operating in echelon formation, an individual operating a vehicle in the vicinity of the snowplows may not overtake or pass the snowplows on either side of the snowplows.
- (4) A violation of Subsection (2) or (3) is an infraction.

Enacted by Chapter 219, 2023 General Session