

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~~

28 other vehicle to enter and occupy the space [~~without danger. This provision~~].

29 (2) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to funeral processions or to congested traffic
30 conditions resulting in prevailing vehicle speeds of less than 35 miles per hour.

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

32 **41-6-63.30. Definitions -- Gore area -- Driving over gore prohibited -- Exceptions --**
33 **Penalties.**

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

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

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

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

40 (ii) an operator of an authorized emergency vehicle under conditions described under

41 Section 41-6-14.

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

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

44 **41-6-75.5. Merging lanes -- Yielding.**

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

Legislative Review Note
as of 12-21-99 8:46 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel