

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 868

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MEADOWS.

1603L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 304.015, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to highway lane usage, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 304.015, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 304.015, to read as follows:

304.015. 1. All vehicles not in motion shall be placed with their right side as near the right-hand side of the highway as practicable, except on streets of municipalities where vehicles are obliged to move in one direction only or parking of motor vehicles is regulated by ordinance.

2. Upon all public roads or highways of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction pursuant to the rules governing such movement;

(2) When placing a vehicle in position for and when such vehicle is lawfully making a left turn in compliance with the provisions of sections 304.014 to 304.025 or traffic regulations thereunder or of municipalities;

(3) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair;

(4) Upon a roadway designated by local ordinance as a one-way street and marked or signed for one-way traffic.

3. It is unlawful to drive any vehicle upon any highway or road which has been divided into two or more roadways by means of a physical barrier or by means of a dividing section or delineated by curbs, lines or other markings on the roadway, except to the right of such barrier

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 or dividing section, or to make any left turn or semicircular or U-turn on any such divided
19 highway, except at an intersection or interchange or at any signed location designated by the state
20 highways and transportation commission or the department of transportation. The provisions
21 of this subsection shall not apply to emergency vehicles, law enforcement vehicles or to vehicles
22 owned by the commission or the department.

23 4. The authorities in charge of any highway or the state highway patrol may erect signs
24 temporarily designating lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction, regardless
25 of the center line of the highway, and all members of the Missouri highway patrol and other
26 peace officers may direct traffic in conformance with such signs. When authorized signs have
27 been erected designating off-center traffic lanes, no person shall disobey the instructions given
28 by such signs.

29 5. Whenever any roadway has been divided into three or more clearly marked lanes for
30 traffic, the following rules in addition to all others consistent herewith shall apply:

31 (1) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and
32 shall not be moved from such lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can
33 be made with safety;

34 (2) Upon a roadway which is divided into three lanes a vehicle shall not be driven in the
35 center lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle where the roadway ahead is
36 clearly visible and such center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or in preparation for
37 a left turn or where such center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the
38 direction the vehicle is proceeding and is sign-posted to give notice of such allocation;

39 (3) Upon all highways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic
40 thereon shall be driven in the right-hand lane for traffic or as close as practicable to the
41 right-hand edge or curb, except as otherwise provided in sections 304.014 to 304.025;

42 (4) Official signs may be erected by the highways and transportation commission or the
43 highway patrol may place temporary signs directing slow-moving traffic to use a designated lane
44 or allocating specified lanes to traffic moving in the same direction and drivers of vehicles shall
45 obey the directions of every such sign;

46 (5) Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the
47 right, and except when a roadway has been divided into traffic lanes, each driver shall give to
48 the other at least one-half of the main traveled portion of the roadway whenever possible.

49 6. All vehicles in motion upon a highway having two or more lanes of traffic proceeding
50 in the same direction shall be driven in the right-hand lane except when overtaking and passing
51 another vehicle or when preparing to make a proper left turn or when otherwise directed by
52 traffic markings, signs or signals.

53 7. **Violation of subsections 1 to 6 of this section shall be deemed a class C**
54 **misdemeanor unless such violation causes an immediate threat of an accident, in which**
55 **case such violation shall be deemed a class B misdemeanor, or unless an accident results**
56 **from such violation, in which case such violation shall be deemed a class A misdemeanor.**

57 8. All trucks registered for a gross weight of more than forty-eight thousand pounds shall
58 not be driven in the far left-hand lane upon all interstate highways, freeways, or expressways
59 within urbanized areas of the state having three or more lanes of traffic proceeding in the same
60 direction. This restriction shall not apply when:

61 (1) It is [necessary for the operator of the truck to follow traffic control devices that
62 direct use of a lane other than the right lane] **reasonably necessary for the operation of the**
63 **truck to respond to any emergency condition; or**

64 (2) The right [half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.]
65 **or center lane of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction, maintenance, or**
66 **repair.**

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68 **Any highway signs identifying the lane not to be used by trucks under this subsection shall**
69 **be covered or hidden during the times of construction or repair within the designated work**
70 **area and in the two miles preceding the work area.**

71 9. As used in subsection [7] 8 of this section, "truck" means any vehicle, machine,
72 tractor, trailer, or semitrailer, or any combination thereof, propelled or drawn by mechanical
73 power and designed for or used in the transportation of property upon the highways. The term
74 "truck" also includes a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 301.010.

75 [9.] 10. Violation of **subsection 8 of** this section shall be deemed a class C misdemeanor
76 unless such violation causes an immediate threat of an accident, in which case such violation
77 shall be deemed a class B misdemeanor, or unless an accident results from such violation, in
78 which case such violation shall be deemed a class A misdemeanor.