

1 HB505
2 210922-1
3 By Representative Pettus
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 04-MAR-21

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, on an interstate highway, a vehicle may not travel in the leftmost lane for more than 1.5 miles without completely passing another vehicle. Existing law also provides exceptions to this prohibition.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to install appropriate signs giving notice of this prohibition at various locations on the interstate highway system.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to rules of the road; to amend Section 32-5A-80, as amended by Act 2019-515 (2019 Regular Session), to require the Department of Transportation to install appropriate signs giving notice of the restrictions against driving a vehicle in the leftmost lane.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Section 32-5A-80, as amended by Act
2 2019-515 (2019 Regular Session), is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 "§32-5A-80.

5 "(a) Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a
6 vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway,
7 except under any of the following conditions:

8 "(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle
9 proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing
10 such movement.

11 "(2) When an obstruction exists making it necessary
12 to drive to the left of the center of the highway; provided,
13 any person doing so shall yield the right-of-way to all
14 vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the
15 unobstructed portion of the highway within such distance as to
16 constitute an immediate hazard.

17 "(3) Upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes
18 for traffic under the rules applicable thereon.

19 "(4) Upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic.

20 "(b) Upon all roadways, any vehicle proceeding at
21 less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place
22 and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the
23 right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as
24 practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway,
25 except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding
26 in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an
27 intersection or into a private road or driveway.

1 "(c) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for
2 moving traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic,
3 no vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center line of
4 the roadway, except when authorized by official
5 traffic-control devices designating certain lanes to the left
6 side of the center of the roadway for use by traffic not
7 otherwise permitted to use such lanes, or except as permitted
8 under subdivision (a) (2). However, this subsection shall not
9 be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in
10 making a left turn into or from an alley, private road, or
11 driveway.

12 "(d) (1) Upon any interstate highway, except as
13 provided in subdivision (2), a vehicle may not remain in the
14 leftmost lane for more than 1.5 miles without completely
15 passing another vehicle.

16 "(2) A vehicle may travel in the leftmost lane under
17 any of the following conditions:

18 "a. When traffic conditions or congestion make it
19 necessary to operate a vehicle in the leftmost lane.

20 "b. When inclement weather, obstructions, or hazards
21 make it necessary to operate a vehicle in the leftmost lane.

22 "c. When compliance with a law, rule, ordinance, or
23 traffic control device makes it necessary to operate a vehicle
24 in the leftmost lane.

25 "d. When exiting a roadway to the left.

26 "e. When paying a toll or user fee at a toll
27 collection facility.

1 "f. If the vehicle is an authorized emergency
2 vehicle operated in the course of duty.

3 "g. If the vehicle is operated or used in the course
4 of highway maintenance or construction or is traveling through
5 a construction zone.

6 ~~"(3) Until October 31, 2019, a law enforcement
7 officer may issue only a warning citation for a violation of
8 this subsection.~~

9 "(3) The Department of Transportation shall cause to
10 be installed appropriate signs giving notice of this
11 subsection. The department shall place the signs within the
12 first two miles of the beginning of any interstate highway in
13 the state and every 50 miles thereafter, and at any
14 intersection of interstate highways."

15 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
16 first day of the third month following its passage and
17 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.