

1 HB18  
2 178743-2  
3 By Representative Hanes  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 07-FEB-17  
6 PFD: 10/13/2016

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 SYNOPSIS: Under current law, a motor vehicle traveling  
9 at less than the normal speed of traffic is  
10 required to travel in the right-hand lane or as  
11 close to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway  
12 as practicable.

13 This bill would specify that, on interstate  
14 highways and U.S. highways, a commercial motor  
15 vehicle having three or more axles would be  
16 required to travel in the right lanes unless  
17 passing or under certain other conditions.

18  
19 A BILL  
20 TO BE ENTITLED  
21 AN ACT  
22

23 Relating to motor vehicles and traffic; to amend  
24 Section 32-5A-80, Code of Alabama 1975, to specify that, on  
25 interstate highways and U.S. highways, a commercial motor  
26 vehicle would be required to travel in the right lanes unless

1 passing or under certain conditions; and to provide  
2 exceptions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Section 32-5A-80, Code of Alabama 1975,  
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 "§32-5A-80.

7 "(a) Upon all roadways of sufficient width a vehicle  
8 shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as  
9 follows:

10 "(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle  
11 proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing  
12 such movement;

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

19 "(3) Upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes  
20 for traffic under the rules applicable thereon; or

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

22 "(b) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at  
23 less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place  
24 and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the  
25 right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as  
26 practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway,  
27 except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding

1 in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an  
2 intersection or into a private road or driveway.

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

14 "(d) (1) On an interstate or U.S. highway having four  
15 lanes of traffic with two lanes moving in each direction, a  
16 commercial motor vehicle having three or more axles shall  
17 travel in the right lane unless passing a vehicle or vehicles.  
18 The commercial vehicle may not travel in the left-most lane in  
19 order to pass another vehicle or vehicles for more than one  
20 mile without completely passing the other vehicle or vehicles  
21 unless traffic does not allow the commercial vehicle to pass  
22 and return to the right lane.

23 "(2) On an interstate or U.S. highway having three  
24 or more lanes in each direction, a commercial motor vehicle  
25 having three or more axles may not travel in the far left  
26 lane.

1           "(e) Subsection (d) does not apply to a commercial  
2 vehicle under any of the following conditions:

3           "(1) When traffic conditions or congestion make it  
4 necessary to operate a commercial vehicle other than as  
5 required in subsection (d).

6           "(2) When inclement weather, obstructions, or  
7 hazards make it necessary to operate a commercial vehicle  
8 other than as required in subsection (d).

9           "(3) When compliance with a law, a rule, an  
10 ordinance, or a traffic control device makes it necessary to  
11 operate a commercial vehicle other than as required in  
12 subsection (d).

13           "(4) When making a left-hand turn or exiting a  
14 roadway to the left.

15           "(5) When paying a toll or user fee at a toll  
16 collection facility.

17           "(6) When operating a commercial vehicle within the  
18 corporate limits of a municipality.

19           "(f) Subsection (d) does not apply to the following:

20           "(1) An authorized emergency vehicle operated in the  
21 course of duty.

22           "(2) A vehicle operated or used in the course of  
23 highway maintenance or construction."

24           Section 2. For 60 days following the effective date  
25 of this act, a law enforcement officer shall issue a warning  
26 citation only for a violation of subsection (d) of Section  
27 32-5A-80.

1                   Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.