

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 517

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN.

Pre-filed December 5, 2011, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4307S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 304.015, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the imposition of an additional fine for failing to drive in the right-hand lane except under certain conditions, 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Section A. Section 304.015, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 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
2 as near the right-hand side of the highway as practicable, except on streets of
3 municipalities where vehicles are obliged to move in one direction only or parking
4 of motor vehicles is regulated by ordinance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 (5) Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each
55 other to the right, and except when a roadway has been divided into traffic lanes,

56 each driver shall give to the other at least one-half of the main traveled portion
57 of the roadway whenever possible.

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

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

68 (1) It is necessary for the operator of the truck to follow traffic control
69 devices that direct use of a lane other than the right lane; or

70 (2) The right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction
71 or repair.

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

77 9. Violation of this section shall be deemed a class C misdemeanor unless
78 such violation causes an immediate threat of an accident, in which case such
79 violation shall be deemed a class B misdemeanor, or unless an accident results
80 from such violation, in which case such violation shall be deemed a class A
81 misdemeanor.

82 **10. In addition to any other fine or penalty authorized by**
83 **subsection 9 of this section, an additional fine of one thousand five**
84 **hundred dollars shall be imposed for a violation of subsection 2 or**
85 **subsection 6 of this section.**

✓