

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 208—ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Prohibits certain vehicles from being operated in the extreme left lane of certain controlled-access highways. (BDR 43-189)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City Jail or Detention Facility.
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to highways; prohibiting a driver of a vehicle over a certain declared gross weight from operating the vehicle in the extreme left general purpose lane of certain controlled-access highways; providing exceptions; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to erect advisory signs on any controlled-access highway which has three or more lanes for traffic traveling in one direction to advise operators of vehicles with a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds in which lanes they should travel. **Section 2** of this bill removes the authority of the Department to erect those signs and instead prohibits the driver of such a vehicle from operating in the extreme left general purpose lane of such a controlled-access highway. Exceptions are provided for: (1) when certain hazards or emergency conditions make it necessary to drive in the extreme left general purpose lane; (2) when a driver is preparing to turn, exit or bear to the left of the highway; (3) when a driver is avoiding merging traffic; or (4) when a driver is complying with certain traffic control devices or the directions of a peace officer. Finally, for the purposes of this new prohibition, **section 2** clarifies that an express lane or a high-occupancy vehicle lane is not considered a general purpose lane. Existing law makes a violation of this provision a misdemeanor. (NRS 484A.900) **Section 1** of this bill makes a conforming change to an existing traffic law. (NRS 484B.223)



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 484B.223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.223 1. If a highway has two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic traveling in one direction, vehicles must:

(a) Be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane; and

(b) ~~Not~~ *Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484B.590, not* be moved from that lane until the driver has given the appropriate turn signal and ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.

2. Upon a highway which has been divided into three clearly marked lanes, a vehicle must not be driven in the ~~extreme left lane at any time. A vehicle on such a highway must not be driven in the~~ center lane except:

(a) When overtaking and passing another vehicle where the highway is clearly visible and the center lane is clear of traffic for a safe distance;

(b) In preparation for a left turn; or

(c) When the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction in which the vehicle is proceeding and a sign is posted to give notice of such allocation.

3. If a highway has been designed to provide a single center lane to be used only for turning by traffic moving in both directions, the following rules apply:

(a) A vehicle may be driven in the center turn lane only for the purpose of making a left-hand turn onto or from the highway.

(b) A vehicle must not travel more than 200 feet in a center turn lane before making a left-hand turn from the highway.

(c) A vehicle must not travel more than 50 feet in a center turn lane after making a left-hand turn onto the highway before merging with traffic.

4. If a highway has been designed to provide a single right lane to be used only for turning, a vehicle must:

(a) Be driven in the right turn lane only for the purpose of making a right turn; and

(b) While being driven in the right turn lane, not travel through an intersection.

5. A person who violates any provision of this section may be subject to any additional penalty set forth in NRS 484B.130 or 484B.135.



Sec. 2. NRS 484B.590 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.590 1. ~~{The Department of Transportation may erect advisory signs at reasonable intervals}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a driver shall not operate a vehicle with a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds in the extreme left general purpose lane* on any controlled-access ~~{facility within its jurisdiction}~~ *highway* which has three or more lanes for traffic traveling in one direction. ~~{to advise operators of vehicles with a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds in which lanes they should travel.}~~

2. *The prohibitions of subsection 1 do not apply:*

(a) *When hazardous or emergency conditions make it necessary to drive in the extreme left general purpose lane.*

(b) *To a driver who is:*

(1) *Preparing for a left turn or a left exit or bearing left where the controlled-access highway splits;*

(2) *Avoiding actual or potential traffic moving onto the controlled-access highway from a marked entrance lane, marked express lane or merging lane; or*

(3) *Complying with an official traffic control device or the directions of a peace officer which make it necessary to drive in the extreme left general purpose lane.*

3. As used in this section ~~{, "controlled access facility" means a highway or street especially designed for through traffic, and over, from or to which owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons have no right or easement, or only a controlled right or easement of access, light, air or view, by reason of the fact that their property abuts upon the controlled access facility or for any other reason.}~~:

(a) *"Express lane" means a traffic lane designated for through traffic that does not provide access to each exit lane on a controlled-access highway.*

(b) *"General purpose lane" means a clearly marked traffic lane on a controlled-access highway. The term does not include a lane designated:*

(1) *As an express lane; or*

(2) *For the use of high-occupancy vehicles.*

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

