
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that large and high-
2 passenger vehicles pose an undue risk to public safety when
3 allowed in the left-hand lane of public highways. High-speed
4 lane changes are widely considered to be among the most
5 dangerous maneuvers, especially with regard to motorcyclists,
6 whom the drivers of large semi-trucks may find difficult to see.
7 In addition, efficiency suffers as trucks, trailers, and buses
8 cause congestion to the more nimble vehicles behind them.

9 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit large and high-
10 passenger vehicles from using the left-hand lane, or close to
11 the left-hand curb or edge, of roadways.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to part XII to be appropriately
14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§291C- Driving in left-hand lane or along left curb or
16 edge; prohibitions. (a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision



1 in part XVII, no person driving a vehicle with more than four
2 wheels or a high-passenger car shall travel:

3 (1) In the extreme left-hand lane of a roadway if the
4 roadway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of
5 traffic moving in the same direction; or

6 (2) Closer to the left-hand curb or left-hand edge than
7 the right-hand curb or right-hand edge of a roadway if
8 the roadway is not clearly marked for two or more
9 lanes.

10 (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply when:

11 (1) Traveling a distance not to exceed one thousand feet
12 when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or
13 into a private road or driveway; or

14 (2) Directed by a police officer or any other person
15 authorized to direct, control, or regulate traffic.

16 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), in
17 case of a conflict between this section and part XVII, this
18 section shall prevail.

19 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person who
20 operates a public transportation vehicle from traveling in a



1 lane that has been designated as a high-occupancy vehicle lane
2 or zipper lane by the department of transportation.

3 (e) For the purposes of this section, "high-passenger car"
4 means a passenger car, as defined in section 286-2, designed for
5 carrying at least eleven passengers."

6 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
7 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
8 begun before its effective date.

9 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2023



H.B. NO. 304

Report Title:

Statewide Traffic Code; Left-Hand Lane; Large and High-Passenger Vehicles; Exemptions

Description:

Prohibits drivers from operating vehicles with more than four wheels and high-passenger cars in the left-hand lane, or close to the left-hand curb or left-hand edge, of roadways. Exempts drivers operating public transportation vehicles in high-occupancy vehicle lanes or zipper lanes.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

