



AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT VEHICLES TRAVELING ON ROADWAYS WITH TWO OR MORE LANES OF TRAFFIC MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION MUST STAY IN THE RIGHT LANE WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-321, MCA.

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

Section 1. Section 61-8-321, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-8-321. Drive on right side of roadway -- exceptions. (1) Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle must be operated upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

- (a) when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing the passing movement;
- (b) when the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair;
- (c) upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable on a divided roadway;
- (d) upon a roadway designated by official traffic control devices for one-way traffic;
- (e) when the operator of a vehicle is complying with the provisions of 61-8-346; ~~or~~
- (f) when an obstruction exists that makes it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the roadway;

or

(g) when a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle is performing a job-related duty as provided in 61-8-107.

(2) A person operating a vehicle to the left of the center of the roadway for any of the reasons provided in subsection (1) shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the roadway that are within a distance that constitutes an immediate hazard.

~~(3) A vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing must be operated in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle~~

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

(a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) and subject to subsection (4), upon all roadways having two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, a vehicle must be driven in the right-hand lane.

(b) A vehicle being operated upon a roadway having two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction is not required to be driven in the right-hand lane when:

(i) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;

(ii) traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow;

(iii) moving left to allow traffic to merge;

(iv) traveling on a roadway within the official boundaries of a city or town, except as provided in subsection (4);

(v) preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway when a left turn is legally permitted;

(vi) exiting onto a left-hand exit from a controlled-access highway;

(vii) an obstruction or hazardous conditions make it necessary to drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane;

(viii) road or vehicle conditions make it safer to drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane; or

(ix) authorized snow-removal equipment is operating on the roadway.

(4) When traveling upon an interstate highway, as defined in 60-5-102, within the official boundaries of a city or town, a vehicle must be driven in the right-hand lane unless otherwise directed or permitted by an official traffic control device."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0415, originated in the House.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2017.

Chief Clerk of the House

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2017.

HOUSE BILL NO. 415

INTRODUCED BY S. MORIGEAU, D. BARTEL, J. ECK, G. HERTZ, M. HOPKINS, C. KNUDSEN, S. LAVIN,
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