
The original instrument was prepared by Sharon F. Lyles. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Ann S. Brown.

SB 84 Reengrossed

DIGEST
2019 Regular Session

Erdey

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of DOTD or his designee to designate a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane on any highway in the state highway system, where adequate shoulders exist, and may restrict the use thereof to vehicular traffic classified as a "high occupancy vehicle (HOV)" to the extent he thinks it expedient that, in his judgment, is appropriate to provide travel time savings and to increase the total number of people moved through a highway corridor with high levels of travel demand and traffic congestion.

Proposed law specifies that the secretary or his designee is not authorized to designate an existing roadway or travel lane as a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane.

Proposed law defines a "high occupancy vehicle" to mean a passenger car, pickup truck, van, recreational vehicle, or a bus or other motorized passenger vehicle used for transporting persons such as a carpool or a vanpool vehicle used for ridesharing purposes and occupied by a driver and one or more passengers and to exclude a truck, tandem truck, tractor, truck-tractor, combination of vehicles, or commercial motor vehicle carrying or transporting freight, merchandise, or other property from its meaning; and defines a "high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane" to mean one or more lanes of a highway or an entire highway where designated by traffic control devices high occupancy vehicles are given at all times, or at regularly scheduled times, a priority or preference over some or all other vehicles moving in the general stream of all highway traffic.

Proposed law provides that HOV lanes may be used by a motorcycle regardless of the number of riders or passengers.

Proposed law requires DOTD to promulgate rules and regulations related to enforcement and penalties of the HOV lanes. Proposed law provides further that notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the rules and regulations shall be in accordance with the selected implementation method of HOV lanes.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Adds R.S. 48:345)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Changes authority to designate HOV lanes from the assistant secretary of the office of operations or the chief engineer to the secretary of DOTD or his designee.
2. Adds to definition of "high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane" that HOV lanes are designated by traffic control devices.
3. Requires DOTD to promulgate rules and regulations related to enforcement and penalties of HOV lanes and that notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the rules and regulations shall be in accordance with the selected implementation method of HOV lanes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds the provision that "adequate shoulders must exist" for a lane to be designated as a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane.
2. Specifies that nothing in proposed law authorizes the secretary or his designee to designate an existing roadway or travel lane as a HOV lane.
3. Adds a provision that allows motorcycles, regardless of the number of riders or passengers, to use HOV lanes.
4. Makes technical corrections.