

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 81 (SB 84)

2019 Regular Session

Erdey

New 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.

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.

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.

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

Requires DOTD to promulgate rules and regulations related to enforcement and penalties of the HOV lanes. 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)