

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 855

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TRAFFIC: Provides that the left lane is for passing only

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:71(B)(1) relative to multilane highways; to restrict vehicles  
3 to driving in the left-hand lane on multilane highways; to provide for a restriction  
4 regarding the speed of a vehicle traveling in a left-hand lane; and to provide for  
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 32:71(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §71. Driving on right side of road; exceptions

9 \* \* \*

10 B.(1) (a) Upon all multilane highways, no vehicle shall be driven in the left-  
11 hand lane except when directed otherwise, preparing for a left turn at an intersection  
12 or private road or driveway, overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the  
13 same direction, or when right-hand lanes are congested. However, no vehicle being  
14 driven in the left lane except when directed otherwise or preparing for a left turn at  
15 an intersection, private road or driveway shall impede any other vehicle that is  
16 traveling in the same lane and behind that vehicle.

17 (b) Upon all multilane highways, no vehicle traveling in the left-hand lane  
18 shall be driven at a speed slower than any vehicle traveling its right on the same  
19 roadway.

20 (c) Upon all multilane highways any vehicle proceeding at less than the

1 normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the circumstances then  
 2 existing, shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic except when  
 3 preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway, or  
 4 passing or overtaking a vehicle proceeding in the same direction, if passing on the  
 5 left side of it. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize driving any  
 6 vehicle in the left lane so as to prohibit, impede or block passage of an overtaking  
 7 vehicle in such lane and in such event the vehicle in the left lane prohibiting,  
 8 impeding or blocking passage of an overtaking vehicle shall expeditiously merge  
 9 into the right lane of traffic.

10 \* \* \*

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Henderson

HB No. 855

**Abstract:** Restricts vehicles from traveling in the left-hand lane on all multilane highways. Provides for exceptions.

Present law provides that any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the circumstances then existing, shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic except when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway, or passing or overtaking a vehicle proceeding in the same direction, if passing on the left side of it.

Present law restricts any vehicle from traveling in the left lane so as to prohibit, impede or block passage of an overtaking vehicle in such lane and in such event the vehicle in the left lane prohibiting, impeding or blocking passage of an overtaking vehicle shall expeditiously merge into the right lane of traffic.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that no vehicle shall be driven in the left-hand lane on any multilane highway except when directed otherwise, preparing for a left turn at an intersection or private road or driveway, overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when right-hand lanes are congested.

Proposed law provides that no vehicle being driven in the left lane except when directed otherwise or preparing for a left turn at an intersection, private road or driveway shall impede any other vehicle that is traveling in the same lane and behind that vehicle.

Proposed law provides that no vehicle traveling in the left-hand lane shall be driven at a speed slower than any vehicle traveling its right on the same roadway.

(Amends R.S. 32:71(B)(1))