

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) and to enact R.S. 32:71(C), (D), and (E), relative to
3 multilane highways; to restrict vehicles to driving in the left-hand lane on multilane
4 highways; to provide for a restriction regarding the speed of a vehicle traveling in
5 a left-hand lane; and to provide for 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 and R.S. 32:71(C),
8 (D), and (E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

10 * * *

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

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

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

11 (d) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply during a declared state
12 of emergency when contraflow has been activated.

13 * * *

14 C. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor
15 vehicles, is directed to include a summary of this Section in any instructional
16 publication for drivers.

17 D. The Department of Transportation and Development is directed to place
18 signs on multilane highways, in an effort to make motorists aware of the provisions
19 provided for in this Section.

20 E. The Louisiana Highway Commission and the Department of
21 Transportation and Development is directed to cooperatively develop and engage a
22 public awareness campaign to notify motorists of the provisions of this Section.

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 to its right on the same roadway.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of this Subsection shall not apply during a declared state of emergency when contra-flow has been activated.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds an exception for this provision during a declared state of emergency when contra-flow has been activated.