

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 139

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

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

TRAFFIC. Prohibits certain trucks from using the far left lane on multi-lane highways moving in the same direction, except under certain circumstances. (1/1/12)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 32:83, relative to motor vehicles and traffic regulations; to prohibit certain trucks from using the far left lane on certain highways; to provide for exceptions; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:83 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§83. Prohibition; certain trucks traveling in far left lane on certain highways;
penalty

A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a truck, truck-tractor-semitrailer, or truck-tractor-trailer, which has a total of three or more axles, shall travel in the right lane on a multi-lane highway and shall travel only in either of the two lanes farthest to the right on highways having three or more lanes for travel in the same direction, except for a reasonable distance when making a left turn or where a special hazard exists that requires the use of an alternative lane for safety reasons.

B.(1) The provisions of this Section shall not apply when such trucks are passing a motor vehicle that is stopped for any reason, passing a motor vehicle

1 or vehicle traveling under the posted speed limit, allowing traffic to merge onto
2 a multi-lane highway, or entering or exiting a multi-lane highway.

3 (2) The Department of Transportation and Development shall post signs
4 on all multi-lane highways indicating that such trucks shall be restricted in
5 ordinary operation to the right-hand travel lane or to the two travel lanes
6 farthest to the right as indicated in Subsection A of this Section.

7 C. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined five
8 hundred dollars.

9 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2012.

10 Section 3. The Department of Transportation and Development shall collect data on
11 the number of crashes, highway operations, compliance with, enforcement of, and public
12 perception of this Act for calendar years 2012 and 2013 and submit a report to the House and
13 Senate committees on transportation, highways, and public works no later than March 31,
14 2014.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST

Proposed law requires a truck, truck-tractor-semitrailer, or truck-tractor-trailer, which has a total of three or more axles, to travel in the right lane on a multi-lane highway and requires travel only in either of the two lanes farthest to the right on highways having three or more lanes for travel in the same direction, except for a reasonable distance when making a left turn or where a special hazard exists that requires the use of an alternative lane for safety reasons. Provides that proposed law does not apply to such trucks when passing a motor vehicle which is stopped for any reason, passing a motor vehicle or vehicle traveling under the posted speed limit, allowing traffic to merge onto a multi-lane highway, or when entering or exiting the highway.

Proposed law requires DOTD to post signs on all multi-lane highways indicating that such trucks are restricted in ordinary operation to the right-hand travel lane or the two travel lanes farthest to the right.

Proposed law provides that the operator of such trucks violating the proposed law shall be subject to a fine of \$500.

Proposed law requires DOTD to collect data on the number of crashes, highway operations, compliance with, enforcement of, and public perception of, the provisions of proposed law for the calendar years 2012 and 2013, and to submit a report to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways, and public works no later than March 31, 2014.

Effective January 1, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 32:83)