

SENATE FILE NO. SF0021

High occupancy vehicle lanes.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing the director
2 of the department of transportation or a local authority to
3 designate a high occupancy vehicle lane; providing
4 exemptions from high occupancy vehicle lane requirements;
5 defining terms; specifying a penalty; requiring rulemaking;
6 and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-5-238 is created to read:

11

12 **31-5-238. Designated high occupancy vehicle lanes;**
13 **exceptions; penalty.**

14

1 (a) The director or a local authority may designate
2 any part of a roadway or specific lane of a roadway under
3 the director's or local authority's jurisdiction as a high
4 occupancy vehicle lane, except the director or a local
5 authority may not designate the only available lane of
6 travel in a given direction as a high occupancy vehicle
7 lane.

8
9 (b) A vehicle operating in a high occupancy vehicle
10 lane shall be a high occupancy vehicle except:

11
12 (i) Motorcycles, bicycles and public
13 transportation vehicles may operate in a high occupancy
14 vehicle lane regardless of the number of occupants, subject
15 to the other requirements under this act;

16
17 (ii) Any vehicle making a turn from a high
18 occupancy vehicle lane, subject to the other requirements
19 under this act.

20
21 (c) The department shall implement rules to provide
22 for the design, operation, maintenance and required signage
23 for high occupancy vehicle lanes.

1

2 (d) Any person who operates a vehicle in a high
3 occupancy vehicle lane that is not a high occupancy vehicle
4 or that is not a vehicle authorized under subsection (b) of
5 this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by:

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7 (i) For a first conviction, a fine of not more
8 than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);

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10 (ii) For a second conviction of the same offense
11 within one (1) year thereafter, a fine of not more than
12 fifty dollars (\$50.00);

13

14 (iii) For a third or subsequent conviction of
15 the same offense within one (1) year after the first
16 conviction, a fine of not more than seventy-five dollars
17 (\$75.00).

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19 **Section 2.** W.S. 31-5-102(a) by creating new
20 paragraphs (lxix) through (lxxi) and by renumbering (lix)
21 as (lxxii), 31-5-106(a)(iv), 31-5-201(a)(intro), (iii) and
22 by creating a new paragraph (v) and 31-5-205(b) by creating
23 a new paragraph (iv) are amended to read:

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2 **31-5-102. Definitions.**

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4 (a) Except as otherwise provided, as used in this
5 act:

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7 (lxix) "High occupancy vehicle" means a vehicle
8 occupied by not fewer than two (2) persons or as provided
9 by department rule;

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11 (lxx) "High occupancy vehicle lane" means any
12 preferential lane designated for exclusive use by high
13 occupancy vehicles at times as indicated by official
14 traffic-control devices;

15

16 (lxxi) "Public transportation vehicle" means:

17

18 (A) A vehicle that provides transportation
19 by bus or other conveyance to the general public with
20 general or special service on a regular and continuing
21 basis or that provides transportation to or from public or
22 private primary, secondary or tertiary schools; and

23

1 (B) A vehicle that:

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3 (I) Is owned or operated by a public
4 entity;

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6 (II) Is operated under a contract with
7 a public entity; or

8

9 (III) Is operated pursuant to a
10 license by a public entity to provide bus or school bus
11 services to the public.

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13 ~~(lix)~~(lxxii) "This act" means W.S. 31-5-101
14 through 31-5-1601.‡

15

16 **31-5-106. Authorized emergency vehicles.**

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18 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
19 section, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle,
20 when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of
21 an actual or suspected violator of the law or when
22 responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm,
23 may:

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2 (iv) Disregard regulations governing direction
3 of movement, high occupancy vehicle lanes or turning in
4 specified directions.

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6 **31-5-201. Driving on right side of roadway;**
7 **exceptions.**

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9 (a) Upon all roadways of sufficient width a vehicle
10 shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except
11 ~~as follows~~ for any of the following:

12

13 (iii) Upon a roadway divided into three (3)
14 marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable
15 thereon; ~~or~~

16

17 (v) Upon a roadway designated and signposted as
18 a high occupancy vehicle lane.

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20 **31-5-205. Additional limitations on driving on the**
21 **left; exceptions.**

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23 (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply:

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(iv) Upon a roadway designated and signposted as
a high occupancy vehicle lane.

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2023.

(END)