

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 roadway, part of a roadway or specific lane of a
3 roadway under the director's or local authority's
4 jurisdiction as a high occupancy vehicle lane.

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6 (b) A vehicle operating in a high occupancy vehicle
7 lane shall be a high occupancy vehicle except:

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

13

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

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

21

22 (d) Any person who operates a vehicle in a high
23 occupancy vehicle lane that is not a high occupancy vehicle

1 or that is not a vehicle authorized under subsection (b) of
2 this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a
3 penalty under W.S. 31-5-1201(b).

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

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11 **31-5-102. Definitions.**

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13 (a) Except as otherwise provided, as used in this
14 act:

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16 (lxix) "High occupancy vehicle" means a vehicle
17 occupied by not fewer than two (2) persons or as provided
18 by department rule;

19

20 (lxx) "High occupancy vehicle lane" means any
21 preferential lane designated for exclusive use by high
22 occupancy vehicles at times as indicated by official
23 traffic-control devices;

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2

(lxxi) "Public transportation vehicle" means:

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

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(B) A vehicle that:

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

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

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

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~~(lix)~~(lxxii) "This act" means W.S. 31-5-101

23

through 31-5-1601.+

1

2 **31-5-106. Authorized emergency vehicles.**

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4 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
5 section, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle,
6 when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of
7 an actual or suspected violator of the law or when
8 responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm,
9 may:

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11 (iv) Disregard regulations governing direction
12 of movement, high occupancy vehicle lanes or turning in
13 specified directions.

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15 **31-5-201. Driving on right side of roadway;**
16 **exceptions.**

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

21

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

4

5 (v) Upon a roadway designated and signposted as
6 a high occupancy vehicle lane.

7

8 **31-5-205. Additional limitations on driving on the**
9 **left; exceptions.**

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

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

15

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

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18

(END)