

FILED MAR 3 1999

SENATE FILE 279

BY REDWINE

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to vehicles driven on divided, multilaned
2 highways, requiring the department of transportation to post
3 signs, and applying a penalty.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 279
TRANSPORTATION

1 Section 1. Section 321.297, Code 1999, is amended by
2 adding the following new subsection:
3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. a. A person operating a vehicle on a
4 divided, multilaned highway in this state shall drive the
5 vehicle in the right-hand lane closest to the right-hand curb
6 or edge of the roadway which is available for traffic
7 proceeding in the same direction, except when overtaking and
8 passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, when
9 preparing for a left turn, or when it is otherwise necessary
10 to drive in a lane other than that farthest right-hand lane.
11 b. The department shall place official signs on interstate
12 highways that direct traffic to keep to the right except to
13 pass. The signs shall be placed at appropriate intervals on
14 interstate highways and shall conform to the department manual
15 on uniform traffic-control devices.

16 EXPLANATION

17 This bill amends Code section 321.297 to provide that a
18 person operating a vehicle on a divided, multilaned highway
19 shall drive the vehicle in the farthest right-hand lane
20 available for traffic proceeding in the same direction, except
21 when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the
22 same direction, when preparing for a left turn, or when it is
23 otherwise necessary to drive in a lane other than the farthest
24 right-hand lane. Code section 321.297 currently requires
25 vehicles to be driven on the right half of the roadway, with
26 certain exceptions including an exception for roadways
27 restricted to one-way traffic. Violations of the new
28 provision are punishable by a scheduled fine of \$15 under Code
29 section 805.8.

30 The bill also requires the state department of
31 transportation to place official signs on interstate highways
32 that direct traffic to keep to the right except to pass. The
33 signs shall be placed at appropriate intervals on interstate
34 highways and shall conform to the department manual on uniform
35 traffic-control devices.