

Senate File 2243 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2243

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3118)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to driving on a roadway laned for traffic, and
2 making penalties applicable.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.306, Code 2014, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **321.306 Roadways laned for traffic.**

4 Whenever any roadway has been divided into ~~three or more~~
5 clearly marked lanes for traffic, the following rules in
6 addition to all others consistent ~~herewith~~ with this chapter
7 shall apply:

8 1. A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as ~~practical~~
9 practicable entirely within a single lane ~~and~~.

10 2. A vehicle shall not be moved from ~~such~~ a lane until the
11 driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made
12 with safety.

13 ~~2.~~ 3. If a roadway is divided into three lanes, a vehicle
14 shall not be driven in the center lane except as follows:

15 a. When overtaking and passing another vehicle where the
16 roadway is clearly visible and ~~such~~ the center lane is clear of
17 traffic within a safe distance.

18 b. In preparation for a left turn or where ~~such~~ the center
19 lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in
20 the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is signposted to
21 give notice of such allocation.

22 ~~3.~~ 4. Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving
23 traffic to use a designated lane or allocating specified lanes
24 to traffic moving in the same direction and drivers of vehicles
25 shall obey the directions of every such sign.

26 ~~4.~~ 5. Vehicles moving in a lane designated for slow-moving
27 traffic shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles moving in the
28 same direction in a lane not so designated when such lanes
29 merge to form a single lane.

30 ~~5.~~ 6. A portion of a highway provided with a lane for
31 slow-moving vehicles does not become a roadway marked for three
32 lanes of traffic.

33

EXPLANATION

34 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
35 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

1 This bill amends Code section 321.306, which contains
2 requirements for driving a vehicle on a roadway that has been
3 divided into three or more clearly marked traffic lanes. The
4 bill provides that the requirements apply on any roadway
5 with clearly marked traffic lanes, regardless of the number
6 of lanes. Currently, the requirement to drive as nearly as
7 practical entirely within a single lane is combined with the
8 requirement not to move from the lane until the driver has
9 first ascertained that the movement can be made safely. The
10 bill separates those two requirements and makes semantic
11 changes to the language of the Code section.

12 Pursuant to current law, a violation of the requirements of
13 Code section 321.306 is a simple misdemeanor, punishable by a
14 scheduled fine of \$100. A violation that causes serious injury
15 to or the death of a person may be subject to an additional fine
16 and driver's license suspension.