



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 842

HOUSE BILL NO. 1416

By Representatives Howell, Weaver, Matlock, Johnson, Carter, Rogers, Ragan, Goins, Lamberth, Pody, Lundberg, Littleton, McCormick, Williams, Lynn, Armstrong

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1608

By Senators Niceley, Bailey, Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, relative to the operation of vehicles in the left lanes of certain highways.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Slow Poke Law".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) On interstate and multilane divided highways that are three (3) or more lanes in each direction, a person shall not operate a vehicle in the passing lane, except when overtaking or passing a vehicle that is in a nonpassing lane.

(b) This section shall not apply:

(1) When the volume of traffic does not permit the vehicle to safely merge into a nonpassing lane;

(2) When inclement weather or an official traffic control device makes it necessary to drive in the passing lane;

(3) When obstructions or hazards exist in a nonpassing lane;

(4) When avoiding traffic moving onto the highway from an acceleration or merging lane;

(5) When highway design makes it necessary to drive in the passing lane to exit or turn left;

(6) To authorized emergency vehicles engaged in official duties; or

(7) To vehicles engaged in highway maintenance and construction operations.

(c) The department of transportation is authorized to use the department's existing permanent electronic overhead informational displays located on the interstate system to provide periodic messages to the motoring public as to the provisions of this section, including the restriction on the left lane being used as a passing lane only. The department may develop guidelines for the content, length, and frequency of any message to be placed on the displays.

(d) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine only of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Nonpassing lane" means any lane that is to the right of the passing lane; and

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(2) "Passing lane" means:

(A) The furthestmost left lane; or

(B) The lane immediately to the right of the furthestmost left lane, during the specified hours of specified days of the week when the furthestmost left lane is reserved for the exclusive use of high occupancy vehicles pursuant to § 55-8-188.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 4, 2016



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



ROY RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 19th day of April 2016



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR