

HB 1262 - As Amended - Left Lane For Passing

House Environment and Transportation Committee

March 5, 2020

What would HB 1262 do?

- ▶ Make the Left Lane of any roadway that has three or more lanes with a speed limit of 55 mph or higher a passing only lane

Why Pass HB 1262?

- ▶ Driver Safety!
- ▶ Less Fatalities
- ▶ Safer Highways
- ▶ Keep slow drivers out of the fast lane

**Statewide
Crash Summary**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	5 Year AVG.	%
Fatal Crashes	432	417	480	483	517	466	0.4
Injury Crashes	29,236	30,369	30,655	34,705	34,518	31897	29.9
Property Damage Crashes	62,937	67,165	76,654	85,032	79,813	74320	69.7
Total Crashes	92,605	97,951	107,789	120,220	114,848	106683	100.0
Total of All Fatalities	466	443	521	522	557	502	
Total Number Injured	42,757	44,158	44,816	50,897	51,182	46,762	

As of July 13, 2018¹

¹<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/Benchmark-Reports/StatewideBR-17July13-18.pdf>

Slow Drivers in the Left Lane

- ▶ New research shows that two cars riding side-by-side going the same speed can result in major traffic buildups.¹
- ▶ The more congestion there is, the higher risk of crashes occurring.
- ▶ Slow drivers in the left lane force motorists who want to pass to pass on the right and to dart around traffic to move forward.



¹<https://yellowhammernews.com/move-alabama-reasons-stay-left-lane/>

How Does Committing the Left Lane for Purely Passing help?

By having a committed lane for passing it allows drivers to safely pass those whom are driving slower



Road Rage Is An Issue

- ▶ “Those who stake out permanent positions in the left lane tend to provoke other cars to drive faster, often giving them no other choice but the dangerous strategy of passing on the right.”

- Lauren Fix, Forbes Magazine



Aggressive Driving Behaviors make up the Majority of Fatal Crashes in the U.S

Driving Behaviors Reported For Drivers And Motorcycle Operators Involved In Fatal Crashes, 2016

Behavior	Number	Percent
Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of posted limit or racing	9,234	17.8%
Under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication	5,592	10.8
Failure to keep in proper lane	3,890	7.5
Failure to yield right of way	3,659	7.0
Distracted (phone, talking, eating, object, etc.)	3,210	6.2
Operating vehicle in a careless manner	2,696	5.2
Failure to obey traffic signs, signals, or officer	2,064	4.0
Operating vehicle in erratic, reckless or negligent manner	2,002	3.9
Overcorrecting/oversteering	1,967	3.8
Vision obscured (rain, snow, glare, lights, building, trees, etc.)	1,566	3.0
Drowsy, asleep, fatigued, ill, or blacked out	1,310	2.5
Swerving or avoiding due to wind, slippery surface, etc.	1,307	2.5
Driving wrong way on one-way traffic or wrong side of road	1,169	2.3
Making improper turn	348	0.7
Other factors	6,130	11.8
None reported	15,970	30.8
Unknown	8,479	16.3
Total drivers (1)	51,914	100.0%

(1) The sum of percentages is greater than total drivers as more than one factor may be present for the same driver.

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

1

How Would It Be Enforced?

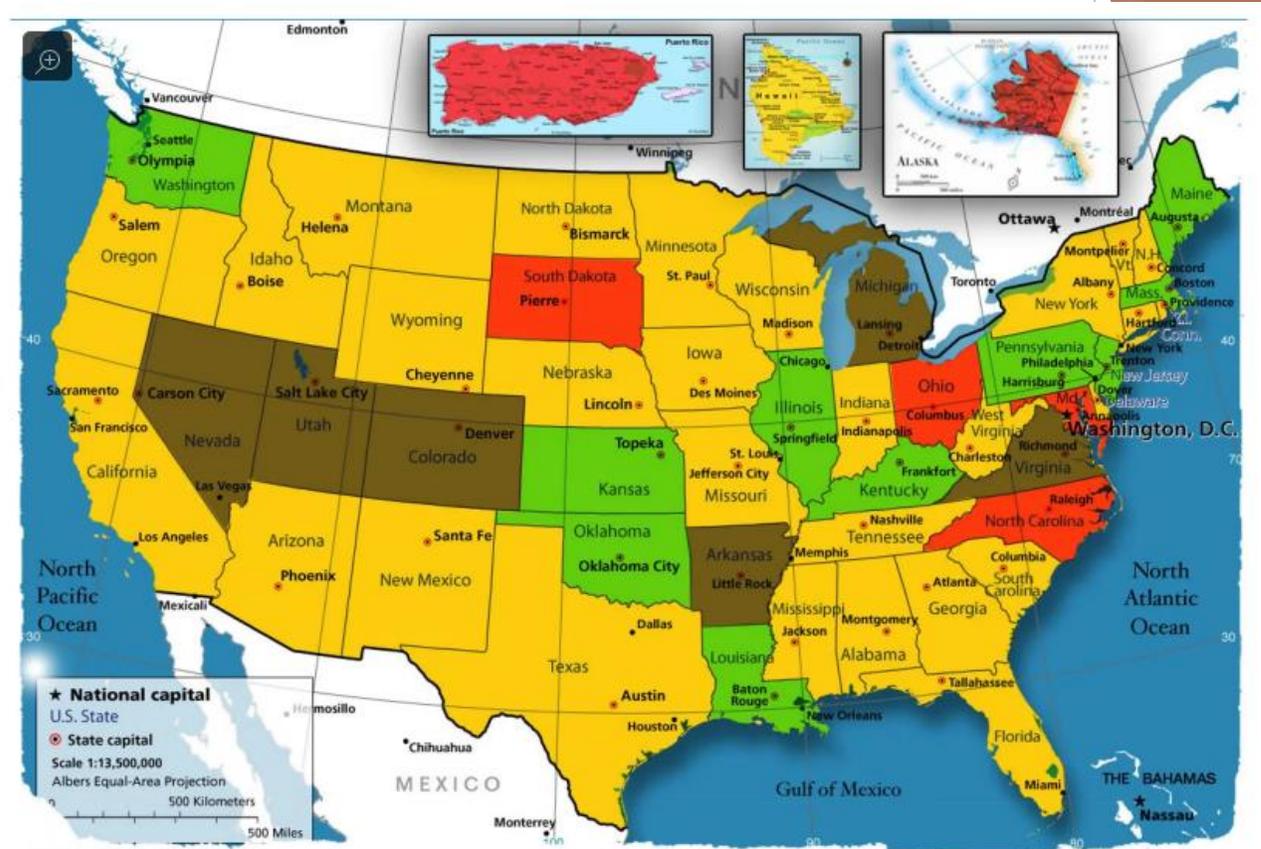
- ▶ The law would be a secondary offense
- ▶ A civil citation would be issued for violations

Educating Drivers

- ▶ This years bill focusing heavily on educating drivers
- ▶ The State Hwy Administration would be required to educate drivers about the new policy by:
 - ▶ Placing and maintaining signs at regular intervals on appropriate highways
 - ▶ Using the Dynamic Message Sign System located throughout the state

Other States

- ▶ Maryland is one of only a few states that allows drivers to use the left lane other than for passing
- ▶ Maryland should join with other states in relieving congestion and promoting driver safety



Must Move If Driving Slower Than Normal Traffic			
Alabama	Missouri		
Arizona	Montana		
California	Nebraska		
Connecticut	New Hampshire		
Delaware	New Mexico		
D.C.	North Dakota		
Florida	Oregon		
Georgia	Rhode Island		
Hawaii	South Carolina		
Idaho	Tennessee		
Indiana	Texas		
Iowa	Vermont		
Minnesota	West Virginia		
Mississippi	Wisconsin		
	Wyoming		
29 STATES			
Left Lane Only For Turning			
Illinois			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Massachusetts			
New Jersey			
Oklahoma			
Pennsylvania			
Washington			
10 STATES			
Weak Or No Law			
Alaska			
Maryland			
North Carolina			
Ohio			
Puerto Rico			
South Dakota			
5 STATES			
Must Move If Blocking Traffic			
Arkansas			
Colorado			
Michigan			
Nevada			
Utah			
Virginia			
6 STATES			

¹<https://jalopnik.com/left-lane-passing-laws-a-state-by-state-map-5501615>

Be Courteous

- ▶ It is courteous to move over into the right lanes when you do not have an immediate reason to be in the left lane.
- ▶ By allowing other to pass, and helping relieve congestion, drivers will experience a more pleasant and more efficient drive

By passing HB 1262 as amended, we will be voting to create safer interstates, reduce congestion, and encourage more courteous driving

Please Vote Favorably For
HB 1262 As Amended

Questions?