

H. B. 2798

(By Delegates Armstead and Walters)
[Introduced January 24, 2011; referred to the
Committee on Roads and Transportation then the
Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §17C-7-9 of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended, relating to the limiting the maximum
distance a vehicle can drive in a center lane which is clearly
marked as a left turn lane.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §17C-7-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 7. DRIVING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROADWAY, OVERTAKING
AND PASSING, ETC.**

§17C-7-9. Driving on roadways laned for traffic; penalty.

(a) Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more
clearly marked lanes for traffic the following rules in addition to
all others consistent herewith shall apply:

(1) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable
entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such lane

1 until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be
2 made with safety.

3 (2) Upon a roadway which is divided into three lanes a vehicle
4 shall not be driven in the center lane which is clearly marked as
5 a left turn lane except in preparation for a left turn, in which
6 case a vehicle may not travel in the center lane a distance in
7 excess of seventy-five feet, or where such center lane is at the
8 time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction the
9 vehicle is proceeding and is signposted to give notice of such
10 allocation.

11 (3) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving
12 traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be
13 used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the
14 center of the roadway and drivers of vehicles shall obey the
15 directions of every such sign.

16 (b) Any person violating ~~the provisions of~~ this section is
17 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
18 fined not more than \$100; upon a second conviction within one year
19 thereafter, shall be fined not more than \$200; and upon a third or
20 subsequent conviction, shall be fined not more than \$500.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prevent vehicles from driving more than seventy-five feet in a center lane designated for left turns.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.