

1 AN ACT relating to the overtaking of bicycles on a roadway.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 189.300 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The operator of any vehicle when upon a highway shall travel upon the right side of  
5 the highway whenever possible, and unless the left side of the highway is clear of  
6 all other traffic or obstructions for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the  
7 overtaking and passing of another vehicle to be completed without interfering with  
8 the operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle  
9 being overtaken. The overtaking vehicle shall return to the proper traffic lane as  
10 soon as practicable and, if the passing vehicle enters the oncoming traffic lane,  
11 before coming within two hundred (200) feet of any approaching vehicle.

12 (2) The operator of any vehicle moving slowly upon a highway shall keep his vehicle as  
13 closely as practicable to the right-hand boundary of the highway, allowing more  
14 swiftly moving vehicles reasonable free passage to the left, ***unless signage or***  
15 ***markings indicate otherwise.***

16 ➔Section 2. KRS 189.340 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) Vehicles overtaking other vehicles proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the  
18 left of them and shall not again drive to the right until reasonably clear of those  
19 vehicles. Vehicles overtaking streetcars may pass either to the right or left when so  
20 directed by a police officer, when on a one (1) way street or where the location of  
21 the tracks prevents compliance with this section, with regard for other traffic.

22 (2) ***(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, vehicles overtaking a***  
23 ***bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall:***

24 ***1. If there is more than one (1) lane for traffic proceeding in the same***  
25 ***direction, move the vehicle to the immediate left, if the lane is***  
26 ***available and moving in the lane is reasonably safe; or***

27 ***2. If there is only one (1) lane for traffic proceeding in the same***

1                   direction, pass to the left of the bicycle at a distance of not less than  
2                   three (3) feet between any portion of the vehicle and the bicycle and  
3                   maintain that distance until safely past the overtaken bicycle.

4           **(b) The driver of a motor vehicle may drive to the left of the center of a**  
5           **roadway, including when a no-passing zone is marked in accordance with**  
6           **subsection (6) of this section, to pass a person operating a bicycle only if the**  
7           **roadway to the left of the center is unobstructed for a sufficient distance to**  
8           **permit the driver to pass the person operating the bicycle safely and avoid**  
9           **interference with oncoming traffic. This paragraph does not authorize**  
10           **driving on the left side of the center of the roadway when otherwise**  
11           **prohibited under state law.**

12           **(c) The driver of any of the following vehicles shall exercise due caution when**  
13           **overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction, but shall not be**  
14           **subject to the three (3) feet passing requirement outlined in this subsection:**  
15           **1. Commercial vehicles registered with a declared gross weight of vehicle**  
16           **and any towed unit that exceeds twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds;**  
17           **2. Vehicles operating under an overweight or over-dimensional permit**  
18           **issued under KRS 189.222;**  
19           **3. Vehicles registered under KRS 186.050(4) having a declared gross**  
20           **weight that exceeds twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds; or**  
21           **4. Any farm tractor or farm machinery.**

22           **(3)** The operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle  
23           only under the following conditions:

- 24           (a) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;
- 25           (b) Upon a roadway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width for two (2) or  
26           more lines of vehicles moving lawfully in the direction being traveled by the  
27           overtaking vehicle.

1 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ The operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the  
2 right only under conditions permitting such movements in safety. Such movement  
3 shall not be made by driving off the roadway unless passing vehicle comes to a  
4 complete stop and such movement may be made safely.

5 ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in  
6 overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless the  
7 left side is clearly visible and free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead  
8 to permit overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the  
9 safe operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle  
10 overtaken. In every event, the overtaking vehicle must return to the right-hand side  
11 of the roadway before coming within two hundred (200) feet of any vehicle  
12 approaching from the opposite direction.

13 ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ The commissioner of highways is hereby authorized to determine those  
14 portions of any highway where overtaking and passing or driving to the left of the  
15 roadway would be especially hazardous and may by appropriate signs or markings  
16 on the roadway indicate the beginning and end of such zones, and when such signs  
17 or markings are in place and clearly visible to an ordinarily observant person, every  
18 driver of a vehicle shall obey the directions thereof, except as provided for in  
19 subsection (2)(b) of this section.

20 ~~(7)~~~~(6)~~ Whenever any roadway has been divided into three (3) clearly marked lanes  
21 for travel, the following additional rules shall apply:

22 (a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as may be practical entirely within a single  
23 lane and shall not be moved from that lane until the driver has first ascertained  
24 that the movement can be made with safety;

25 (b) A vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when overtaking and  
26 passing another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and the center  
27 lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or in preparation for a left turn or

1           where a center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the  
2           direction in which the vehicle is proceeding and is signposted to give notice of  
3           the allocation; and

4           (c) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving traffic to use a  
5           designated lane or allocating specified lanes to traffic moving in the same  
6           direction and operators of vehicles shall obey the directions of such signs.

7    ~~(8)(7)~~   A vehicle shall not be driven in the left lane of any limited access highway of  
8           four (4) lanes or more with a posted speed limit of at least sixty-five (65) miles per  
9           hour, except in overtaking a slower vehicle, yielding to traffic coming onto such a  
10          highway, or when traffic conditions exist which would prohibit safe use of the right  
11          or center lanes.

12   ~~(9)(8)~~   (a) The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more  
13          closely than is reasonable and prudent, having regard for the speed of the  
14          vehicle and the traffic upon and condition of the highway.

15          (b) The operator of any motor truck, semitrailer truck, bus, or heavy construction  
16          equipment unit, when traveling upon a highway outside of a business or  
17          residential district, shall not follow within two hundred fifty (250) feet of  
18          another such vehicle or equipment unit. This subsection shall not prevent  
19          overtaking and passing, nor shall it apply to any lane specially designated for  
20          use of motor trucks or semitrailer trucks, buses or heavy construction  
21          equipment units.