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SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT:

A Summary of “Keep Right” Traffic Laws in All 50 States

It is the universal trigger and a pet peeve of millions of drivers. You’re making good time traveling 75 MPH in the left lane of a freeway with a 70 MPH posted speed limit. You tap your brakes, turning off the cruise control, because a midnight blue 2012 Buick Regal is firmly ensconced in the left passing lane, traveling at 65 MPH and staying abreast of a Kenworth tractor pulling a 53-foot trailer. Fifteen minutes later traffic is bumper to bumper behind you as far as you can see, and you resort to flashing your lights, to no avail. The driver of the Buick Regal believes that traveling at or near the speed limit in the fast lane is acceptable—and that they are teaching the impatient drivers behind them a valuable lesson in driving safety. In a perfect world, a sheriff’s deputy would suddenly appear and pull the Buick Regal over for unsafe driving and violation of state driving statutes. Far too often, however, instant karma doesn’t occur, but an accident does.

All states allow drivers to use the left lane (when there is more than one in the same direction) to pass. Most states restrict use of the left lane by slow-moving traffic that is not passing. A few states restrict the left lane only for passing or turning left. Some states have “yield laws” which require drivers to move into the right-hand lane if they are blocking traffic in the left lane. Most states follow the Uniform Vehicle Code and require drivers to keep right if they are going slower than the normal speed of traffic (regardless of the speed limit). A handful of states either do not require vehicles to keep right or permit vehicles moving at the speed limit to drive in the left lane regardless of traffic conditions.

All states have “Keep Right Laws” which require vehicles travelling slower than the normal speed of traffic (defined differently in each state) to travel in the furthest right lane. A growing number of states, however, designate the far-left lane as a “passing only” lane, making it illegal to travel in that lane other than to pass another vehicle. Driving in the left lane for anything other than passing is not only illegal in a growing number of states, it’s unsafe and results in thousands of accidents annually, according to a study by the Traffic Operations & Safety Laboratory within the engineering department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When looking for deeper pockets or additional defendants in automobile collision litigation, don’t look past the driver who may have put the entire sequence of events into action. If a driver is parked in the left lane on a four-lane highway and is not passing someone or making a left turn, he or she is breaking the law in a majority of states and can be ticketed.

A growing number of U.S. states are passing traffic laws that regulate driving in the left lane. Some allow it only for passing and others require slower traffic to yield the left lane if a faster vehicle is approaching. In **Texas**, for example, signs on Texas multi-lane highways that read “Left Lane For Passing Only” indicate that the left lane on a divided highway is not a “fast” lane; it is a passing lane only. After passing someone and safely clearing the vehicle passed, a driver must move back into the right lane. In Texas, impeding the flow of traffic by continuing to drive in the left lane is punishable by a fine of up to \$200.

There are two types of drivers: (1) those who get upset when somebody is illegally hanging out in the left passing lane, and (2) those who are blissfully ignorant that hanging out in the passing lane is both illegal and dangerous. When slower drivers are scattered between the right and left lanes, faster drivers must weave back and forth, slowing and speeding up repeatedly. For those who believe that they shouldn't have to move over if they're driving the posted speed limit, not only are they driving illegally, but evidence shows that slowing down and changing lanes is more dangerous than speeding. A car going 5 MPH slower than the speed limit has a greater chance of causing an accident than one going 5 MPH faster than the speed limit. That is why every state has some law on the books restricting the use of the left passing lane.

In 29 states, any car traveling slower than surrounding traffic must be in the right lane. In 11 states, the laws are even stricter—reserving the left lane only for turning or passing. In a growing number of states—especially **Texas, Washington, and Ohio**—police are engaging in an aggressive program to ticket violators. In Germany, the autobahn has a lower accident rate than American highways, despite there being no speed limit. The reason for this is that German drivers stay to the right unless they are passing.

The law in many states provides that a driver may use the left lane only when passing another vehicle, moving over to let merging traffic on to the road, moving over because there is an emergency vehicle on the shoulder (law in some states), or because he or she will soon make a left turn/take a left exit. Driving in the left lane makes other cars slow down and creates a traffic backup. Researchers have found that a few slow cars can create traffic jams, such as when there is a slow driver in the left lane next to an equally slow driver in the right lane. Traffic experts confirm that driving slower than surrounding traffic is more likely to cause an accident than speeding. Do-gooders and know-it-alls driving the speed limit in the left lane, albeit slower than the flow of traffic, believe they are teaching faster drivers a lesson. In fact, they are breaking the law and endangering those around them. Many states with “left-lane laws” provide for certain exceptions in a variety of circumstances, including bad weather, traffic congestion, and when exiting on the left in a short distance.

In other states, this statutory duty of slower traffic to keep right applies “notwithstanding the *prima facie* speed limits.” For example, in **California**, Cal. Vehicle Code § 21654 requires “any vehicle proceeding upon a highway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction” to drive in the right-hand lane, “notwithstanding the *prima facie* speed limits.” Laws such as this refer to the “normal” speed of traffic, not the “legal” speed of traffic.

Colorado is another state that takes its “Left Lane Law” seriously. C.R.S. § 42-4-1013(1) of the Colorado statutes makes it illegal for a person to drive in the left lane (passing lane), where the speed limit is 65 MPH or more, unless they are passing another vehicle, or the volume of traffic does not permit them to safely merge into a non-passing lane. Before it passed its Left Lane Law, Colorado drivers could proceed in the left-hand lane if they were traveling at the posted speed limit. What sense did it make to cite a driver for impeding traffic, when simultaneously the driver was obeying the posted speed limit? Impeding statutes were only enforceable when a vehicle was traveling below the posted or *prima facie* speed limit. New approaches to driving safety, combined with higher posted speed limits, now simplify the issue and allow law enforcement to take appropriate enforcement action to enhance the flow of traffic. The new approach acknowledges that by mitigating traffic-flow conflicts caused by slower-moving drivers, accidents resulting from the confluence of slow driving and aggressive driving would likely be reduced. If a motorist is stopped by a Colorado State Trooper for violating the Left Lane Law, the driver may receive a citation. The penalty for the citation is \$35.00 with an additional \$6.20 surcharge bringing the total to \$41.20. The violation includes three points against the violator's Colorado Driver's License. If the citation is issued by a state trooper, the points can be reduced to two points if the penalty is mailed in within 20 days.

A growing number of states now require drivers in the left lane to move to the right, even if they are driving at or exceeding the speed limit. The speed of their vehicle is irrelevant. There is a duty to keep right and use the left lane for passing only. This is the case in **Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming**. This type of statute, such as **Wisconsin's** Wis. Stat. § 346.05(3), which ostensibly condones speeding, usually contains language such as:

(3) Any vehicle proceeding upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn or U-turn at an intersection or a left turn into a private road or driveway, and except as provided in s. 346.072.

This statute requires vehicles to travel in the right lane if they are traveling at less than “the normal speed of traffic.” It will be the job of lawyers to define what “less than the speed of normal traffic” means, but simply traveling the speed limit doesn’t suffice. If “normal traffic” is moving at 70 MPH in a 65 MPH, is somebody violating the law when passing while driving the speed limit? The police officer will have discretion to determine what the “normal speed of traffic” is under the circumstances. If a vehicle wants to pass on the left but can’t because of a slower-moving vehicle in the passing lane, there would appear to be a violation.

One issue which becomes problematical with the new laws is reflected by the concern of fleet owners and trucking associations, who argue that truck drivers should be able to pass slower moving 18-wheelers, but it can take a while because their rigs can be electronically limited to a certain speed. For an article written by Gary Wickert on speed limiters, how they work, and federal laws requiring Electronic Control Modules (ECM) on certain trucks, see [HERE](#). The irony of the new Left Lane Laws isn’t lost on the astute here. People do not want a ticket when they’re speeding, but they want someone else to get a ticket for driving the speed limit.

Regardless of your opinion of the Left Lane Laws, most states have them, and aggressive lawyers looking for additional target defendants will make use of them where appropriate. Having slow drivers in all lanes can cause faster drivers to slow down and weave back and forth to change lanes, increasing the possibility of accidents. Drivers are most at risk of accidents when changing lanes. When some drivers are going slow in the left lane, and the right lane, then people who want to move faster through traffic must zigzag back and forth to maintain their driving pace, even if it exceeds the speed limit. They must change lanes looking alternatively over both shoulders, increasing the potential for accidents. Cultural differences also play a role here, as Europeans driving in the U.S. may be used to not having a speed limit.

Studies have shown that 98% of drivers exceed the speed limit. Twenty-one percent of drivers think it’s perfectly safe to exceed the speed limit by 5 MPH. Forty-three percent saw no risk in going 10 MPH over, and 36% say there’s no harm driving 20 MPH over the speed limit. There are stretches of road in **Texas** where the speed limit is 85 MPH. In **Nevada**, the speed limit is 80 MPH. The speed at which 85% of motorists travel is called “prevailing speed.” The prevailing speed is not the speed limit, as much as we’d like to insist it is. As a result, we have a proliferation of laws which regulate the use of the left passing lane. Speed limits are going up on interstates and highways because motorists are driving faster on them. Speed limits are increased to help decrease unsafe speed variations among the fastest and slowest drivers. Enforcement of Left Lane Laws helps to decrease those unsafe speed variations.

Proving that a vehicle was traveling illegally in the left lane can turn a driver who thinks he or she is being “prudent” by teaching others a lesson into a criminal and a defendant simultaneously. Violating a Left Lane Law can also result in negligence per se—the doctrine whereby behavior is automatically considered negligent because it violates a statute. Enforcement is inconsistent, but the law is the law. Toledo, **Ohio** police used to ticket truck drivers for driving at the 60 MPH speed limit in the left lane. Police looking for criminal activity frequently use the “keep right” law as a pretext to stop a suspicious car.

Much will depend on the facts of your case, but don’t overlook the “safe” driver who violates Left Lane Laws as a possible defendant should an accident and damages result from an accident that otherwise could and should have been avoided. The following chart is a summary of the laws in all 50 states with regard to traveling in the left lane.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
ALABAMA	Ala. Stat. § 32-5A-80 Ala. Stat. § 32-5A-82	Alabama requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when avoiding an obstruction in the right half of the roadway; when the roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic; or when the roadway is restricted to one-way traffic; or when an obstruction exists in the right half of the roadway. Slower traffic must keep right.	Vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic shall be driven in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
ALASKA	13 Alaska ADC § 02.050(b) Alaska Stat. § 28.35.140	Motorists must travel in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when the roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic; or when the roadway is restricted to one-way traffic.	A person may not purposely obstruct or block traffic on any roadway by any means. A vehicle proceeding slower than the maximum authorized speed of traffic must be driven in the right-hand lane or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
ARIZONA	A.R.S § 28-721 (b) A.R.S. § 28-723	Arizona requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when the right half of a roadway is closed while under construction or repair; on a roadway divided into three marked traffic lane; or on a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.	A person driving a vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right-hand lane except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal or blinking of head lamps at nighttime.
ARKANSAS	A.C.A. § 27-51-301 A.C.A. § 27-51-306	Arkansas requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when the right lane is closed to traffic while under construction; when a roadway is divided into more than three marked traffic lanes; upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic; when the right half of the roadway is unsafe; or when a vehicle is preparing to exit the roadway on the left. Prohibited from using farthest left lane on designated six-lane interstate highways. All vehicles are prohibited from impeding traffic in the left lane of a multi-lane road. Vehicles with more than two axles.	The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall yield to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle. Motor vehicles shall not be operated continuously in the left lane of a multi-lane roadway whenever it impedes the flow of traffic. Vehicles must leave the left lane to let faster traffic pass.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
CALIFORNIA	<p>Cal. Vehicle Code § 21650 Cal. Vehicle Code § 21654 (a) Cal. Vehicle Code § 21753 Cal. Vehicle Code § 21655</p>	<p>Vehicles must be driven in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when making a lawful left turn; when the right half of the roadway is closed to traffic while under construction; upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic; or when the roadway is not of sufficient width.</p> <p>Slower traffic must keep right. Notwithstanding the <i>prima facie</i> speed limits, any driver proceeding upon a highway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction at such time shall be driven in the right-hand lane for traffic, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or to turn left.</p> <p>Must use lane(s) designated by signs. If no designated lane, must use right-hand lane. May use second-to-right-hand lane if there are four or more lanes. To pass, must use designated lane, second-to-right lane, or right lane. Motor trucks; truck tractors with three or more axles; truck tractors trailing another vehicle.</p>	<p>The duty of slower traffic to travel in the right lane applies notwithstanding the <i>prima facie</i> speed limits. Except when passing on the right is permitted; the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall safely move to the right-hand side of the highway in favor of the overtaking vehicle after an audible signal or a momentary flash of headlights by the overtaking vehicle.</p>
COLORADO	<p>C.R.S. § 42-4-1001(2) C.R.S. § 42-4-1013</p>	<p>Vehicles must be driven in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when there is an obstruction in the right half of the roadway; upon a roadway divided into three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic must keep right. The left lane is reserved for passing where the speed limit is 65 MPH or faster. It is illegal for a person to drive in the left lane, where the speed limit is 65 MPH or more, unless they are passing another vehicle, or the volume of traffic does not permit them to safely merge into a non-passing lane.</p>
CONNECTICUT	<p>C.G.S.A. § 14-230 (a) and (b)</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; overtaking and passing pedestrians, parked or standing vehicles, animals, bicycles, mopeds, scooters, vehicles moving at a slow speed, or obstructions on the right side of the highway; when the right side of the highway is closed; upon a highway divided into three or more traffic lanes; or on a highway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p> <p>Operators of vehicles with commercial registration, motor bus, trailer, or school bus are prohibited from far-left lane on designated highways with more than two lanes. All vehicles driving at less than normal speed of traffic must use right-hand lane except when passing or turning left.</p>	<p>Any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic shall be driven in the right-hand lane available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the highway.</p>

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DELAWARE	21 Del. C. § 4114(a) and (b) 21 Del. C. § 4116	Delaware requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle, when there is an obstruction on the roadway, when a roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic, or upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.	Vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic shall be driven in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle or operator of an overtaken bicycle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
FLORIDA	F.S.A. § 316.081(1), (2), and (3)	Florida requires motorists to drive in the right-most lane except when passing other vehicles or when an obstruction makes it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway.	Slower vehicles in left lane must yield to faster vehicles.
GEORGIA	O.C.G.A. § 40-6-40(a) and (b) O.C.G.A. § 40-6-184 O.C.G.A. § 40-6-52	Georgia requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when an obstruction exists; when the roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic; or when the roadway is restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right. Trucks equipped with more than six wheels (except buses and motor coaches) must use designated lanes. If no lanes are designated, and two or three lanes are available, trucks may not use far left lane, except to pass or turn left.	Slower vehicles in left lane must yield to faster vehicles. Any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic must be driven in the right-hand lane. No person shall drive a vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede traffic.
HAWAII	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 291C-41 (a) and (b) Haw. Rev. Stat. § 291C-43	Hawaii requires motorists to driver in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; when the roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic, or when the roadway is restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right. Honolulu prohibits travelling driving more than 5 MPH under the limit in the left lane. ROH 15-7.4.	Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal. Any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic must be driven in the right-hand lane.
IDAHO	Idaho Code § 49-630 (1) and (2) Idaho Code § 49-632	Idaho requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; when the roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic, or when the roadway is restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.	Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle. Any vehicle proceeding at less than normal speed of traffic must be driven in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle or preparing for a left-hand turn.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
ILLINOIS	625 I.L.C.S. § 5/11-701 (a) and (d)	<p>Motorist may only use the left lane for passing other vehicles. Upon an interstate highway or fully access controlled freeway, a vehicle may not be driven in the left lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. However, this does not apply when (1) no other vehicle is directly behind the vehicle in the left lane; (2) traffic conditions/congestion make it impractical to drive in the right lane; (3) weather conditions make it necessary to drive in the left lane; (4) when obstructions or hazards exist in the right lane; (5) when a vehicle changes lane to comply with §§ 11-907, 11-907.5, and 11-908 of this Code; (6) when, because of highway design, a vehicle must be driven in the left lane when preparing to exit; (7) on toll highways when necessary to use I-Pass, and on toll and other highways when driving in the left lane is required to comply with an official traffic control device; and (8) to emergency vehicles engaged in official duties and vehicles engaged in highway maintenance and construction.</p>	<p>Motorist must drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.</p>
INDIANA	<p>I.C. § 9-21-8-2(a) and (b) I.C. § 9-21-5-9 I.C. § 9-21-8-12</p>	<p>Indiana requires motorists to drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when the right half of the roadway is closed due to construction or repair; when the roadway is divided into three marked lanes for traffic; or when the roadway is restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p> <p>Section 9-21-8-12 deals with trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers. They must use far right lane (or two right lanes if three or more lanes available) on interstate highways except to pass, enter or exit a highway, or avoid special hazard.</p>	<p>A vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic shall be driven in the right-hand lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. Indiana requires vehicles traveling slower than the speed limit to travel in the right lane to provide for better flow of traffic on the interstate.</p>
IOWA	I.C.A. § 321.297(1) and (2)	<p>Iowa requires motorists to drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway divided into three lanes; or upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Vehicles proceeding at slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane.</p>
KANSAS	<p>K.S.A. § 8-1522 K.S.A. § 8-1514</p>	<p>Kansas requires all vehicles to be driven in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway divided into three marked traffic lanes; or on a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Any vehicle proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must travel in the right lane.</p>

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KENTUCKY	<p>K.R.S. § 189.300 K.R.S. § 189.340 (7)</p>	<p>Slower moving traffic must keep right. The operator of any vehicle when upon a highway shall travel upon the right side of the highway whenever possible, and unless the left side of the highway is clear of all other traffic or obstructions for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the overtaking and passing of another vehicle to be completed without interfering with the operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle being overtaken. The overtaking vehicle shall return to the proper traffic lane as soon as practicable and, if the passing vehicle enters the oncoming traffic lane, before coming within 200 feet of any approaching vehicle.</p> <p>Vehicles shall not be driven in the left lane of any limited access highway of four lanes or more with a posted speed limit of at least 65 MPH, except in overtaking a slower vehicle, yielding to traffic coming on to such a highway, or when traffic conditions exist which would prohibit safe use of the right or center lanes.</p>	<p>The operator of any vehicle moving slowly upon a highway shall keep his vehicle as closely as practicable to the right-hand boundary of the highway, allowing more swiftly moving vehicles reasonably free passage to the left.</p>
LOUISIANA	<p>La. R.S. § 32:71 La. R.S. § 32:73</p>	<p>Louisiana requires all vehicles to travel in the right lane except when overtaking a vehicle, when the right lane is closed, or upon a designated roadway for one-way traffic.</p> <p>Slower traffic must keep right. Any vehicle proceeding on a multi-lane highway at a speed slower than 10 MPH less than the posted maximum speed limit shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing a vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or on to a private road or driveway.</p> <p>When traveling on multi-lane highways, no vehicle being driven in the left lane except when directed otherwise or preparing for a left turn shall impede any other vehicle that is traveling in the same lane and behind that vehicle.</p>	<p>The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal. On multi-lane highways, left lane traffic must yield to traffic approaching from behind.</p>

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
MAINE	29-A M.R.S.A. § 2053(2) 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2052 (6) 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2070	<p>An operator of a vehicle moving slowly shall keep the vehicle as close as practicable to the right-hand boundary of the public way and allow faster moving vehicles reasonably free passage to the left.</p> <p>Where the speed limit is at least 65 MPH, motorists must keep right except to pass. An operator driving on a limited-access way with a speed limit of 65 MPH or more is restricted to the right-hand lane and may use adjacent lanes for overtaking and passing another vehicle but must return to the right-hand lane at the earliest opportunity. This requirement does not apply to an authorized emergency vehicle, or to a vehicle otherwise directed by posted signs, a law enforcement officer, or a highway maintenance crew.</p>	Except when passing on the right is permitted, the operator of passed vehicle, shall give way to the right in favor of the passing vehicle upon audible signal.
MARYLAND	Md. Code Transp. § 21-301 Md. Code Transp. § 21-303	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; when there is an obstruction in the right lane; on a roadway divided into three or more lanes; or on a roadway designated for one-way traffic.	Overtaken vehicle to give way to right, except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle, on audible signal, shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle. Any vehicle going 10 MPH or more below the applicable maximum speed limit must drive in the right lane.
MASSACHUSETTS	M.G.L.A. 89 § 4B M.G.L.A. 89 § 2 M.G.L.A. 89 § 4C	<p>A driver of a vehicle shall drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle or when preparing for a left turn.</p> <p>Heavy commercial vehicles over two and one-half tons and used for transportation of goods, wares, and merchandise must use far-right lane. May use next adjacent lane for passing. May not use other lanes except in emergency. All vehicles must stay to the right except when passing or turning left.</p>	Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on visible signal.
MICHIGAN	M.C.L.A. § 257.634 M.C.L.A. § 257.637	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when the right lane is closed due to construction, repair, or an obstruction; when a vehicle operated by state agency or local authority is working on the roadway; and upon a roadway with three marked lanes.</p> <p>Trucks with gross weight over 10,000 lbs., truck tractors, or combination of vehicle and trailer or semi-trailer must use two right lanes on freeways with three or more lanes, except to turn left or where a special hazard exists.</p>	Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
MINNESOTA	M.S.A. § 169.18(1) and (10)	Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must drive in the right lane unless passing another vehicle; when the right lane is closed while under construction; upon a roadway with three marked lanes; upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic; when an emergency vehicle is approaching or in the roadway if necessary or; when a road maintenance or utility vehicle is parked and repairing the roadway. Slow moving traffic must keep right.	Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane.
MISSISSIPPI	M.C.A. § 63-3-601 M.C.A. § 63-3-603	Vehicles must drive in the right lane except when overtaking a vehicle; when the right lane is closed while under construction or repair; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or on a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.	The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal. Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
MISSOURI	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 304.015 1, 5(3),5(6), 7-9 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 304.016 1	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when making a lawful left turn; when the right lane is closed to traffic while under construction; or upon a one-way roadway. All vehicles in motion upon a highway having two or more lanes of traffic proceeding in the same direction shall be driven in the right-hand lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle or when preparing to make a proper left turn or when otherwise directed by traffic markings, signs, or signals. Trucks weighing more than 48,000 lbs. used to transport property; motor vehicles designed or used for carrying freight, merchandise, or more than eight passengers, but not including vanpools or shuttle buses; may not use left-hand lane on interstate highways, freeways, or expressways within urbanized areas of the state having three or more lanes.	Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle. Vehicles proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
MONTANA	<p>Mont. Code Ann. § 61-8-321</p> <p>Mont. Code Ann. § 61-8-311(1)</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing the passing movement; when the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair; upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable on a divided roadway; upon a roadway designated by official traffic control devices for one-way traffic; when the operator of a vehicle is complying with the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 61-8-346; when an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of center of the roadway; or when a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle is performing a job-related duty as provided in Mont. Code Ann. § 61-8-107.</p>	<p>A motor vehicle may not be driven at a speed slow enough to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.</p> <p>May use left lane to allow entering traffic to merge when travelling at a “speed greater than the traffic flow.”</p>
NEBRASKA	<p>Neb. Rev. Stat. § 60-6,131</p> <p>Neb. Rev. Stat. § 60-6, 133</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway divided into three traffic lanes; or upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle.</p>
NEVADA	<p>N.R.S. § 484B.200</p> <p>N.R.S. § 484B.627</p> <p>N.R.S. § 484B.207</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking another vehicle, when the right half of the highway is closed to traffic; on a highway with three marked traffic lanes; upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic, or when the highway is not of sufficient width.</p>	<p>Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle upon observing the overtaking vehicle or hearing a signal. Slow moving vehicles must travel in the right lane if impeding traffic.</p>
NEW HAMPSHIRE	<p>N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann § 265:16</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking another vehicle; when an obstruction creates a hazard in the right lane; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; and upon a city street designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal. Any vehicle proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane.</p>

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
NEW JERSEY	<p>N.J.S.A. § 39:4-82</p> <p>N.J.S.A. § 39:4-88</p> <p>N.J.S.A. § 39:4-88(e)</p> <p>N.J.S.A. § 39:4-97.1</p> <p>N.J.S.A. § 39:4-85</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane. The left lane may be used for overtaking another vehicle or in preparation for a left turn.</p> <p>Trucks of at least 10,000 lbs. registered gross weight may not drive in far left-hand lane of roadway with three or more lanes, except for up to one mile before a left-hand turn, to enter or exit roadway, or due to emergency conditions.</p> <p>Passing on the right is prohibited unless vehicles are in “substantially continuous lines.”</p>	<p>The driver of a vehicle on a highway, about to be overtaken and passed by another vehicle, approaching from the rear, shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle, and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.</p> <p>No person shall drive a vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.</p>
NEW MEXICO	<p>N.M.S.A. § 66-7-308</p> <p>N.M.S.A. § 66-7-310</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must keep right unless overtaking another vehicle; when the right lane is closed to traffic for repair; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal. Vehicles proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane.</p>
NEW YORK	<p>N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 1120</p> <p>N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 1122</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must drive in the right lane, except when passing another vehicle; when overtaking or passing bicyclists, pedestrians, animals, or obstructions on the right half of the roadway; obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway; when travel on the shoulder is permitted; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Vehicles proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.</p>
NORTH CAROLINA	<p>N.C.G.S.A. § 20-146 (a), (b)</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; upon a highway designated for one-way traffic.</p>	<p>On all highways, vehicles proceeding below the speed limit must be in the right lane.</p>
NORTH DAKOTA	<p>N.D.C.C. § 39-10-08 (a), (b)</p> <p>N.D.C.C. § 39-10-11</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane and use the left lane for passing only. Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway with marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Any vehicle proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.</p>

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
OHIO	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4511.25 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4511.27	Drivers must drive in the right lane, except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; when driving on a roadway with three or more marked traffic lanes; when driving on a roadway designated for one-way traffic; or when otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control device.	Vehicles proceeding slower than the speed limit must drive in the right. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the operator of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
OKLAHOMA	47 Okla. Stat. Ann. § 11-301(a), (b) 47 Okla. Stat. Ann. § 11-309	Drivers must drive in the right lane, except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic; or upon a roadway having four or more lanes for moving traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic. Slower traffic must keep right. On a roadway with four or more lanes, vehicle shall not be driven in the left lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; provided, however, this paragraph shall not prohibit driving in the left lane when traffic conditions, flow or road configuration, such as the potential of merging traffic, require the use of the left lane to maintain safe traffic conditions. Vehicle may not be driven in the left lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle, other than in situations where traffic conditions or road configurations require the use of the left-hand lane in order to maintain safe traffic conditions.	Vehicles proceeding slower than the speed limit must drive in the right. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the operator of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
OREGON	O.R.S. § 811.295 O.R.S. § 811.315 O.R.S. § 811.410 O.R.S. § 811.325	Drivers must drive in the right lane. Drivers are not required to drive in the right lane when passing another vehicle; preparing to turn left; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway with three marked lanes for traffic; or on a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right. Any camper, vehicle with a trailer, vehicle with registration weight of 10,000 lbs. or more must drive in right lane of all roadways with two or more lanes, except to pass (without interfering with passage of other vehicles), turn left, respond to emergency conditions, avoid merging traffic, or to obey traffic control devices.	Vehicles proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted under O.R.S. § 811.415, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of an overtaking vehicle.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
PENNSYLVANIA	75 P.S. § 3301(a), (b) 75 P.S. § 3313(d)(2) 75 P.S. § 3303	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the roadway; when official traffic-control devices are in place designating otherwise; upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic; and when making a left turn. Slower traffic must keep right. Vehicle or combination over 10,000 lbs. may not drive in the left-hand lane of limited access highway with three or more lanes, except to turn left.	The left lane may be used for passing, traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow, when moving left to allow traffic to merge, and preparing for a left turn. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall not increase the speed of the vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle and shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on suitable signal.
RHODE ISLAND	R.I.G.L. § 31-15-1 R.I.G.L. § 31-15-2 R.I.G.L. § 31-15-4	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; when the right lane is closed to traffic while under construction or repair; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right. Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane unless passing another vehicle or preparing to turn left.	Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
SOUTH CAROLINA	S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-1810 S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-1840	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right lane; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.	Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
SOUTH DAKOTA	S.D.C.L. § 32-26-1	Slower traffic must keep right. Drivers must drive in the right lane unless it is impracticable to travel in the right lane or when overtaking and passing another vehicle.	Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane.
TENNESSEE	T.C.A. § 55-8-115 T.C.A. § 55-8-117	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when the right lane is closed to traffic while under construction or repair; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.	Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.
TEXAS	Tex. Transp. Code § 545.051 Tex. Transp. Code § 545.053	Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when avoiding an obstruction; upon a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or driving on a one-way road. Slower traffic must keep right.	Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right. The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
UTAH	U.C.A. § 41-6a-701 U.C.A. § 41-6a-704(2) (b) U.C.A. § 41-6a-702	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction; when there is an obstruction in the right half of the roadway; when passing a bicycle or moped; on a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or on a roadway designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p> <p>Vehicle drawing trailer or semitrailer; vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross weight of 12,001 lbs. or more may not use left lane of freeway with at least three lanes, except to turn left, exit, avoid merging traffic, respond to emergency conditions, or follow direction signs.</p>	<p>Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane. Slower vehicles traveling in the left lane must move right to let faster traffic past. On a highway having more than one lane in the same direction, the operator of a slower moving vehicle traveling in the left general-purpose lane must yield to the overtaking vehicle by moving to the right and may not impede the flow of traffic.</p>
VERMONT	Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 23 § 1031 (a),(b) Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 23 § 1033	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right half of the roadway; on a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; or upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken motor vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking motor vehicle.</p>
VIRGINIA	Va. St. § 46.2-802 Va. St. § 46.2-804 Va. St. § 46.2-842 Va. St. § 46.2-803.1 Va. St. § 46.2-842.1	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane unless passing another vehicle or if impracticable to travel on that side of the highway. Slower traffic must keep right.</p> <p>Commercial motor vehicles, except buses, school buses, or vehicles performing maintenance or construction work on interstate highway, unless exiting to the left, may not drive in the left lane of any interstate highway with more than two lanes where posted speed limit is at least 65 MPH may not drive in left lane on interstate highway within Eighth Planning District or Interstate Route 81 regardless of speed limit. Must drive in right lane of interstate highway with no more than two lanes when driving 15 MPH or more below speed limit. Even when traffic in left lane is speeding you must yield to faster traffic.</p>	<p>Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right. Slower moving vehicles traveling in the left lane must yield to faster traffic. The driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible.</p>

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
WASHINGTON	<p>R.C.W.A. § 46.61.100</p> <p>R.C.W.A. § 46.61.110</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right half of the roadway; on a roadway with three marked traffic lanes; upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic, or when approaching a stationary authorized emergency or police vehicle with warning lights on a highway having three lanes or less.</p> <p>Vehicles or combinations weighing more than 10,000 lbs. must keep right except when passing and may not use left lane of a limited access roadway with three or more lanes, except to turn left. May not use left lane of two-lane roadway except to pass, when traveling at greater speed than traffic, to avoid merging traffic, turn left, or exit.</p>	<p>Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, overtaken traffic shall give way to the right in favor of an overtaking vehicle on audible signal.</p>
WEST VIRGINIA	<p>W. Va. St. § 17C-7-1</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane unless passing another vehicle; when the right half of the roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair; on a roadway divided into three marked traffic lanes; or on a roadway designated for one-way traffic.</p> <p>Slower traffic must keep right. Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle or when preparing for a left turn.</p>	<p>It is a traffic infraction to drive continuously in the left lane of a multi-lane roadway when it impedes the flow of other traffic.</p>
WISCONSIN	<p>Wis. Stat. § 346.05(3)</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when approaching for a lawful left turn or U-turn; passing another vehicle; when the right half of the roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair; when overtaking and passing pedestrians, animals, or obstructions on the right half of the roadway; when driving in a particular lane in accordance with signs or pavement markings; or when the roadway is designated for one-way traffic. Slower traffic must keep right.</p>	<p>Drivers proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right.</p>

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	FLOW OF TRAFFIC
WYOMING	<p>Wyo. Stat. § 31-5-201</p> <p>Wyo. Stat. § 31-5-304(c)</p> <p>Wyo. Stat. § 31-5-203</p>	<p>Drivers must drive in the right lane except when passing another vehicle; when an obstruction exists in the right half of the roadway; on a roadway with three marked traffic lanes or; or on a one-way roadway. Slower traffic must keep right.</p> <p>It is illegal to obstruct traffic moving within the speed limit by driving in the left lane for a long time.</p>	<p>On all roadways except one-way streets, any vehicle proceeding slower than the normal speed of traffic must drive in the right lane.</p> <p>Notwithstanding any authorized minimum speed, no person shall operate a vehicle in the extreme left-hand lane of a controlled-access highway for a prolonged period in a manner which impedes the flow of other traffic traveling at a lawful rate of speed.</p> <p>Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal.</p>

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