

SENATE BILL 1608

By Niceley

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 may erect signs or official traffic control devices to restrict usage of a lane designated for passing.

(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

(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.