

SENATE, No. 2931

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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SYNOPSIS

Prohibits school buses from traveling in left lane.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/25/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning school buses and amending R.S.39:4-88.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*

5

6 1. R.S.39:4-88 is amended to read as follows:

7 39:4-88. When a roadway has been divided into clearly
8 marked lanes for traffic, drivers of vehicles shall obey the following
9 regulations:

10 a. A vehicle shall normally be driven in the lane nearest the
11 right-hand edge or curb of the roadway when that lane is available
12 for travel, except when overtaking another vehicle or in preparation
13 for a left turn.

14 b. A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely
15 within a single lane and shall not be moved from that lane until the
16 driver has first ascertained that the movement **【can】** may be made
17 **【with safety】** safely.

18 c. Upon a highway which is divided into **【3】** three lanes, a
19 vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when
20 overtaking or passing another vehicle or in preparation for a left
21 turn or unless the center lane is at the time allocated for traffic
22 moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is signposted
23 to give notice of that allocation.

24 d. The **【State Highway】** Commissioner of Transportation may
25 by regulation or local authorities may by resolution or ordinance
26 with respect to highways under their jurisdiction designate right-
27 hand lanes for slow moving traffic and inside lanes for traffic
28 moving at the speed designated for the district as provided under
29 this chapter, and when the lanes are signposted or marked to give
30 notice of the designation a vehicle may be driven in any lane
31 allocated to traffic moving in the direction in which it is
32 proceeding, but when traveling within the inside lanes the vehicle
33 shall be driven at approximately the speed authorized in such lanes
34 and speed shall not be decreased unnecessarily so as to block,
35 hinder, or retard traffic.

36 e. When such roadway had been divided in such a manner that
37 there are three or more lanes for traffic in any one direction, **【no】** a
38 truck of 10,000 pounds registered gross weight or over shall not be
39 driven in the farthest left-hand lane, except:

40 (1) when and to the extent necessary to prepare for a left turn; a
41 truck may be driven in the farthest left lane for up to one mile to
42 prepare for a left **【hand】** turn as authorized under this paragraph;

43 (2) when necessary to enter or leave such roadway by entrance
44 or exit to or from the left lane; a truck may be driven in the farthest

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 left lane for up to one mile to prepare to enter or leave the roadway
2 as authorized under this paragraph;

3 (3) when reasonably necessary in response to emergency
4 conditions; for the purposes of this paragraph, "emergency
5 conditions" shall include, but not be limited to: poor visibility,
6 snow, accidents, or the presence of emergency vehicles.

7 f. When a roadway has been divided in such a manner that
8 there are two or more lanes for traffic in any one direction, a school
9 bus, as that term is defined in R.S.39:1-1, shall not be driven in the
10 farthest left-hand lane, except:

11 (1) when and to the extent necessary to prepare for a left turn; a
12 school bus may be driven in the farthest left lane for up to one mile
13 to prepare for a left turn as authorized under this paragraph;

14 (2) when necessary to enter or leave such roadway by entrance
15 or exit to or from the left lane; a school bus may be driven in the
16 farthest left lane for up to one mile to prepare to enter or leave the
17 roadway as authorized under this paragraph;

18 (3) when reasonably necessary in response to emergency
19 conditions; for the purposes of this paragraph, "emergency
20 conditions" shall include, but not be limited to: poor visibility,
21 snow, accidents, or the presence of emergency vehicles.

22 (cf: P.L.2013, c.86, s.1)

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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29 This bill prohibits a school bus from being driven in the left lane
30 except under certain circumstances. Under the bill, a school bus
31 may be driven in the left lane in preparation for a left turn, when
32 necessary to enter or leave the roadway, and when reasonably
33 necessary in response to emergency conditions.

34 Pursuant to law, the penalty for failure to comply with the
35 provisions of this bill are: (1) a fine between \$100 and \$300; and
36 (2) an additional surcharge of \$50.