

Senate Bill 489

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Williams of the 19th, Smith of the 52nd and Zamarripa of the 36th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to driving on the right side of the roadway, overtaking and passing, and following
3 too closely, so as to amend the definition of the term "truck"; to provide that buses and
4 motorcoaches being operated on multilane highways shall operate only in certain lanes; to
5 provide an exception for buses and motorcoaches moving to and from HOV lanes; to provide
6 for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 driving on the right side of the roadway, overtaking and passing, and following too closely,
12 is amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 40-6-52, relating to trucks using
13 multilane highways, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'truck' means any vehicle equipped with more
15 than six wheels, except buses and motorcoaches."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code Section 40-6-53 to read as follows:

18 "40-6-53.

19 (a) On roads, streets, or highways with three or more lanes allowing for movement in the
20 same direction, it shall be unlawful for any bus or motorcoach to operate in any lanes other
21 than the two most right-hand lanes, except when the bus or motorcoach is preparing for a
22 left turn, is moving to or from an HOV lane, or as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of
23 this Code section.

24 (b) On roads, streets, or highways with two lanes allowing for movement in the same
25 direction, it shall be unlawful for any bus or motorcoach to operate in the left-hand lane,

1 except when the bus or motorcoach is actually overtaking and passing another vehicle,
2 preparing for a left turn, or as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of this Code section.

3 (c) On interstate highways with four or more lanes allowing for movement in the same
4 direction, the Department of Transportation may designate specific lanes that either
5 prohibit or allow buses or motorcoaches. Where such usage has been so designated and
6 indicated by signs erected by the Department of Transportation, it shall be unlawful for any
7 bus or motorcoach to operate in any lanes other than those designated for its use except
8 when moving to or from an HOV lane.

9 (d) When moving to or from an HOV lane, a bus or motorcoach shall move to the proper
10 lanes of travel expeditiously and in the shortest distance possible under the circumstances."

11 **SECTION 3.**

12 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
13 without such approval.

14 **SECTION 4.**

15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.