

House Bill 459

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Lumsden of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Tanner of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 9 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to speed restrictions, so as to modify provisions relating to impeding traffic flow and  
3 minimum speed in left-hand lanes; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective  
4 date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 9 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 speed restrictions, is amended by revising Code Section 40-6-184, relating to impeding  
9 traffic flow and minimum speed in left-hand lanes, as follows:

10 "40-6-184.

11 (a)(1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede the  
12 normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for  
13 safe operation.

14 (2) On roads, streets, or highways with two or more lanes allowing for movement in the  
15 same direction, no person shall continue to operate a motor vehicle in the most left-hand  
16 lane at less than the maximum lawful speed limit once such person knows or should  
17 reasonably know that he or she is being overtaken in such lane from the rear by a motor  
18 vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed, except when such motor vehicle is preparing  
19 for a left turn.

20 (b) Whenever the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner of transportation or  
21 local authorities determine on the basis of any engineering and traffic investigation that  
22 slow speeds on any part of a road under their respective jurisdictions impede the normal  
23 and reasonable movement of traffic, such commissioners jointly, or such local authorities,  
24 may determine and declare a minimum speed limit below which no person shall drive a  
25 vehicle except when necessary for safe operation, and that limit shall be effective when  
26 posted upon fixed or variable signs.

27 (c) Upon a controlled-access highway, no person shall operate a vehicle in the left lane,  
28 except when overtaking and passing another vehicle.

29 (d) Subsection (c) of this Code section shall not apply:

30 (1) When no other vehicle is directly behind the vehicle in the left lane;

31 (2) When traffic conditions and congestion make it impractical to drive in the right lane;

32 (3) When snow and other inclement weather conditions make it necessary to drive in the  
33 left lane;

34 (4) When obstructions or hazards exist in the right lane;

35 (5) When a vehicle changes lanes to comply with a law of this state;

36 (6) When, because of highway design, a vehicle must be driven in the left lane when  
37 preparing to exit;

38 (7) On toll highways when necessary to pay a toll or use a pass;

39 (8) When driving in the left lane is required to comply with an official traffic control  
40 device;

41 (9) To law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles engaged in  
42 official duties; or

43 (10) To vehicles engaged in highway maintenance and construction operations.

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013, and shall apply to offenses committed on  
46 or after such date.

47 **SECTION 3.**

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