
HOUSE BILL No. 1372

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 9-13-2-184; IC 9-21-8; IC 9-24-6-6.

Synopsis: Driving in left lane on interstate highways. Prohibits the operation of motor vehicles in the left lane of an interstate highway except under certain conditions. Repeals and relocates language requiring the operation of a truck, truck tractor, road tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the right lanes of an interstate highway having at least three lanes in one direction.

Effective: July 1, 2005.

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January 13, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.

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First Regular Session 114th General Assembly (2005)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1372



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-13-2-184 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 184. (a) "Trailer"
- 3 means, except as otherwise provided in this section, a vehicle:
- 4 (1) without motive power;
- 5 (2) designed for carrying persons or property;
- 6 (3) designed for being drawn by a motor vehicle; and
- 7 (4) so constructed that no part of the weight of the trailer rests
- 8 upon the towing vehicle.
- 9 The term includes pole trailers and two (2) wheeled homemade trailers.
- 10 (b) "Trailer", for purposes of IC 9-21, means a vehicle:
- 11 (1) with or without motive power;
- 12 (2) designed for carrying persons or property;
- 13 (3) designed for being drawn by a motor vehicle; and
- 14 (4) so constructed that no part of the weight of the trailer rests
- 15 upon the towing vehicle.
- 16 The term does not include pole trailers.
- 17 (c) "Trailer", for purposes of IC 9-21-8-12, ~~through IC 9-21-8-13,~~



1 means the combination of any motor vehicle towing another vehicle or
2 trailer.

3 SECTION 2. IC 9-21-8-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
4 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 12. (a) Except ~~when~~
5 passing a slower vehicle, entering or leaving a highway, or where a
6 special hazard exists that requires, for safety reasons, the use of an
7 alternate lane, **as provided in subsection (b)**, a person may not operate
8 a motor vehicle in the left lane of an interstate highway except
9 when:

- 10 (1) overtaking and passing a slower motor vehicle;
- 11 (2) entering or leaving a highway; or
- 12 (3) a special hazard exists that for safety reasons requires the
13 use of an alternate lane.

14 (b) **On an interstate highway consisting of at least three (3) lanes**
15 **in any one (1) direction, a person may not operate a truck, truck**
16 **tractor, road tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer on an interstate**
17 **highway in any lane except the far right lane, except when:**

- 18 (1) entering or leaving a highway; or
- 19 (2) a special hazard exists that for safety reasons requires the
20 use of an alternate lane.

21 (c) **Subject to IC 9-21-8-7, a person operating a motor vehicle in**
22 **the left lane of the roadway for the purpose of overtaking and**
23 **passing a slower motor vehicle may remain in the left lane for not**
24 **more than one (1) mile. If passing cannot be accomplished within**
25 **that distance, the overtaking motor vehicle must return to the right**
26 **hand side of the roadway.**

27 SECTION 3. IC 9-24-6-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
28 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 6. (a) The following, if committed
29 while driving a commercial motor vehicle, are serious traffic violations:

- 30 (1) Operating a vehicle at least fifteen (15) miles per hour above
31 the posted speed limit in violation of IC 9-21-5, IC 9-21-6, or
32 IC 20-9.1-5-10.
- 33 (2) Operating a vehicle recklessly as provided in IC 9-21-8-50 and
34 IC 9-21-8-52.
- 35 (3) Improper or erratic traffic lane changes in violation of
36 IC 9-21-8-2 through ~~IC 9-21-8-13~~ **IC 9-21-8-12** and IC 9-21-8-17
37 through IC 9-21-8-18.
- 38 (4) Following a vehicle too closely in violation of IC 9-21-8-14
39 through IC 9-21-8-16.
- 40 (5) In connection with a fatal accident, violating any statute,
41 ordinance, or rule concerning motor vehicle traffic control other
42 than parking statutes, ordinances, or rules.

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- 1 (6) Operating a vehicle while disqualified under this chapter.
- 2 (7) For drivers who are not required to always stop at a railroad
- 3 crossing, failing to do any of the following:
- 4 (A) Slow down and determine that the railroad tracks are clear
- 5 of an approaching train, in violation of IC 9-21-5-4,
- 6 IC 9-21-8-39, IC 35-42-2-4, or any similar statute.
- 7 (B) Stop before reaching the railroad crossing, if the railroad
- 8 tracks are not clear of an approaching train, in violation of
- 9 IC 9-21-4-16, IC 9-21-8-39, or any similar statute.
- 10 (8) For all drivers, whether or not they are required to always stop
- 11 at a railroad crossing, to do any of the following:
- 12 (A) Stopping in a railroad crossing, in violation of
- 13 IC 9-21-8-50 or any similar statute.
- 14 (B) Failing to obey a traffic control device or failing to obey
- 15 the directions of a law enforcement officer at a railroad
- 16 crossing, in violation of IC 9-21-8-1 or any similar statute.
- 17 (C) Stopping in a railroad crossing because of insufficient
- 18 undercarriage clearance, in violation of IC 35-42-2-4,
- 19 IC 9-21-8-50, or any similar statute.
- 20 (b) Subsection (a)(1) and (a)(8) ~~is~~ **are** intended to comply with the
- 21 provisions of 49 U.S.C. 31311(a)(10) and regulations adopted under
- 22 that statute.
- 23 SECTION 4. IC 9-21-8-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
- 24 2005].

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