

9-1-2001

# MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC Trucks on Multi-Lane Highways: Change Certain Provisions Relating to Trucks Using Multi-Lane Highways To Allow the Department of Transportation To Designate Usage Lanes

Nikole M. Crow

Follow this and additional works at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr>

 Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Nikole M. Crow, *MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC Trucks on Multi-Lane Highways: Change Certain Provisions Relating to Trucks Using Multi-Lane Highways To Allow the Department of Transportation To Designate Usage Lanes*, 18 GA. ST. U. L. REV. (2001).  
Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr/vol18/iss1/27>

This Peach Sheet is brought to you for free and open access by the Publications at Reading Room. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia State University Law Review by an authorized editor of Reading Room. For more information, please contact [mbutler@gsu.edu](mailto:mbutler@gsu.edu).

## MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

### *Trucks on Multi-Lane Highways: Change Certain Provisions Relating to Trucks Using Multi-Lane Highways To Allow the Department of Transportation To Designate Usage Lanes*

CODE SECTION: O.C.G.A. § 40-6-52 (amended)  
BILL NUMBER: HB 345  
ACT NUMBER: 323  
GEORGIA LAWS: 2001 Ga. Laws 1050  
SUMMARY: The Act changes the Georgia Code relating to driving on the right side of roadways, overtaking and passing, and following too closely. The Act changes certain provisions relating to trucks using multi-lane highways. The Act also authorizes the Department of Transportation to designate certain usage lanes for trucks traveling on multi-lane highways.  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

#### *History*

HB 345 was introduced by Representative Ralph Twiggs of the 8th District, who authored the bill for the Department of Transportation.<sup>1</sup> Prior to this legislation, trucks were limited to travel in the two right lanes of Georgia highways, and the Department of Transportation did not have the authority to designate other lanes in which trucks could travel.<sup>2</sup> However, there are some areas on Georgia interstates that require trucks to travel in lanes other than the two far right lanes, such as when there is an exit from the far left lane, or when the two far right lanes become exit-only lanes.<sup>3</sup> Thus, traveling legally through Atlanta requires frequent lane-shifting.<sup>4</sup> All of this truck movement risks harm

---

1. See Telephone Interview with Sen. Gloria Butler, Senate District No. 55 (Apr. 5, 2001) [hereinafter Butler Interview].

2. See Telephone Interview with Bryant Poole, Georgia Department of Transportation (Apr. 6, 2001) [hereinafter Poole Interview].

3. See *id.*

4. See *id.*

to the traveling public.<sup>5</sup> This situation required action to allow the Department of Transportation to designate other usage lanes in certain areas, so that the lanes will be clearly marked and drivers of trucks and cars will know which lane they are supposed to use.<sup>6</sup>

### *HB 345*

Representatives Ralph Twiggs, Mickey Channell, Greg Morris, Don Wix, and Paul Smith of the 8th, 111th, 155th, 33rd, and 12th Districts, respectively, sponsored the bill.<sup>7</sup> Upon introduction, the House assigned the bill to its Committee on Transportation, which favorably reported the bill, as substituted, on February 7, 2001.<sup>8</sup> The Committee substitute added subsection (d), which empowered the Department of Transportation to designate lanes.<sup>9</sup> The House adopted the Committee substitute and passed the bill by a vote of 155 to 1 on February 15, 2001.<sup>10</sup>

On February 16, 2001, the Senate assigned the bill to its Committee on Transportation, which favorably reported the bill, without change, on February 27, 2001.<sup>11</sup> Senator Gloria Butler carried the bill in the Senate because it came through the Transportation Committee.<sup>12</sup> The Senate passed the bill without change by a vote of 47 to 2 on March 13, 2001.<sup>13</sup> Governor Roy Barnes signed the bill into law on April 27, 2001.<sup>14</sup>

### *The Act*

The Act amends Georgia Code section 40-6-52 and authorizes the Department of Transportation to designate certain usage lanes for trucks traveling on multi-lane highways.<sup>15</sup> The Act adds subsection (d), which

5. *See id.*

6. *See* Butler Interview, *supra* note 1; Poole Interview, *supra* note 2.

7. *See* HB 345, as introduced, 2001 Ga. Gen. Assem.

8. *See* State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 345, Mar. 21, 2001.

9. *Compare* HB 345, as introduced, 2001 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* HB 345 (HCS), 2001 Ga. Gen. Assem.

10. *See* Georgia House of Representatives Voting Record, HB 345 (Feb. 15, 2001); State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 345, Mar. 21, 2001.

11. *See* State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 345, Mar. 21, 2001.

12. *See* Butler Interview, *supra* note 1.

13. *See* Georgia Senate Voting Record, HB 345 (Mar. 13, 2001).

14. *See* 2001 Ga. Laws 1050, § 2, at 1050.

15. *Compare* 1990 Ga. Laws 2048, § 5, at 2261 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 40-6-52 (1991)), *with*

authorizes the Department of Transportation to prohibit or allow trucks to travel in certain lanes on highways with four or more lanes.<sup>16</sup> As a result, the Department of Transportation can designate lanes for the purpose of allowing trucks to travel through Atlanta and other sections of Georgia interstates in one lane, rather than moving from lane to lane.<sup>17</sup>

*Nikole M. Crow*

---

O.C.G.A. § 40-6-52 (2001).

16. Compare 1990 Ga. Laws 2048, § 5, at 2261 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 40-6-52 (1991)), with O.C.G.A. § 40-6-52 (2001).

17. See Poole Interview, *supra* note 2.