

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

H.B. 827  
Apr 11, 2017  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH50040-ML-110A\* (02/28)

Short Title: Use of Passing Lane/Increased Penalty. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Duane Hall, Bradford, Hardister, and Murphy (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE PROHIBITION ON OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN  
3 THE LEFTMOST TRAVEL LANE OF A CONTROLLED-ACCESS OR PARTIALLY  
4 CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAY AT LESS THAN THE SPEED LIMIT OR WHEN  
5 IMPEDING THE STEADY FLOW OF TRAFFIC AND TO INCREASE THE  
6 MONETARY PENALTY FOR COMMITTING A VIOLATION OF THAT  
7 PROHIBITION.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-146 reads as rewritten:

10 "§ 20-146. Drive on right side of highway; exceptions.

11 ...

12 (b) Upon all ~~highways~~ controlled-access and partially controlled-access highways, any  
13 vehicle proceeding at less than the legal maximum speed limit or impeding the steady flow of  
14 traffic shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for thru traffic, or as close as  
15 practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the highway, except when overtaking and passing  
16 another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn, a lane other  
17 than the inside lane next to the centerline or median of a multilane highway, except when  
18 overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when making a left  
19 turn. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of two  
20 hundred dollars (\$200.00). For purposes of this subsection, a person is "impeding the steady  
21 flow of traffic" if the person knows or reasonably should know that he or she is being overtaken  
22 from the rear by a vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed.

23 ...

24 (e) ~~Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, when appropriate signs have~~  
25 ~~been posted, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle over and upon the~~  
26 ~~inside lane, next to the median of any dual lane highway at a speed less than the posted speed~~  
27 ~~limit when the operation of said motor vehicle over and upon said inside lane shall impede the~~  
28 ~~steady flow of traffic except when preparing for a left turn. "Appropriate signs" as used herein~~  
29 ~~shall be construed as including "Slower Traffic Keep Right" or designations of similar import."~~

30 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 2017, and applies to  
31 offenses committed on or after that date.

