

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## **HB91 Relating to Operating a Motor Vehicle in Lanes of Traffic** Version P

### **Sponsor Statement**

February 23, 2015

With tens of thousands of Alaskans commuting on a daily basis, it is vital that we do everything we can to ensure safe and efficient travel on our roads. Drivers who linger in the left lane create unsafe conditions for other vehicles around them by increasing congestion, road rage, and slowing down response time for emergency responders. Alaska's current regulations allow drivers who are traveling at or below the posted speed limit to remain in the left lane, while the right lane is reserved for slower moving traffic.

HB 91 designates the left lane for passing only by adding a new subsection to AS 28.35.140, that requires any person operating a motor vehicle on a roadway with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction to drive in the right lane(s) of the roadway except when passing, preparing for a left turn, being directed otherwise, or when road conditions make it unsafe to operate in the right lane.

This bill aims to increase safety on Alaska's multilane roadways by keeping the furthestmost left lane free of slow-moving traffic. Alaska's road system is relatively young and provides limited route options for drivers, making it important to allow traffic to move efficiently. The risks associated with congestion on roadways are only compounded by our state's extreme weather conditions.

This bill does not encourage drivers to speed, nor does it have any effect on what constitutes a speeding violation.

It is time that Alaska join the 45 other states that implement a version of "keep right" law. The provisions in this bill are enforced by a citation of at least \$100.