

By: Representative Johnson (87th) (By Request)

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 854

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-603, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE MOTORCYCLES TO LANE SPLIT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES;
3 TO PROVIDE THAT LANE SPLITTING SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED UNLESS TRAFFIC
4 IS PROCEEDING AT A RATE OF SPEED LESS THAN 30 MILES PER HOUR; TO
5 PROVIDE THAT DRIVERS OR PASSENGERS IMPEDING A MOTORCYCLE THAT IS
6 LANE SPLITTING MAY BE SUBJECT TO A MISDEMEANOR; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-603, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 63-3-603. Whenever any roadway has been divided into three
12 (3) or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, except through or
13 bypassing a municipality, the following rules in addition to all
14 others consistent herewith shall apply:

15 (a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practical
16 entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such
17 lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can
18 be made with safety.

19 (b) A vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane
20 upon a roadway which is divided into three (3) lanes except when:



21 (i) Overtaking and passing another vehicle where
22 the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of
23 traffic within a safe distance;

24 (ii) Such vehicle is in preparation for a left
25 turn; or

26 (iii) Such center lane is at the time allocated
27 exclusively to traffic moving in the direction such vehicle is
28 proceeding and is signposted to give notice of such allocation.

29 (c) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving
30 traffic to use a designated lane or allocating specified lanes to
31 traffic moving in the same direction, and drivers of vehicles
32 shall obey the directions of every such sign.

33 (d) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less
34 than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under
35 the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand
36 lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the
37 right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and
38 passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when
39 preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private
40 road or driveway.

41 (e) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not
42 ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of
43 roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons
44 riding two (2) abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable



45 movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a
46 single lane.

47 (f) Whenever any road has two (2) or more adjacent
48 lanes that travel in the same direction, a motorcycle may proceed
49 through stalled traffic using a portion of such adjacent lanes,
50 provided that:

51 (i) The stalled traffic must be traveling at a
52 rate of speed less than thirty (30) miles per hour in the
53 congested zone;

54 (ii) The motorcycle shall not exceed ten (10)
55 miles per hour over the rate of speed of the stalled traffic; and

56 (iii) Motorcycles shall move to the front of
57 stalled traffic and proceed in the normal traffic lanes after
58 passing the stalled traffic.

59 Further, motor vehicles that are being overtaken by
60 motorcycles on the center-line shall yield to the outer edges of
61 the lane of travel, and any driver or passenger impeding the
62 motorcycle shall be punished as provided in Section 63-9-11.

63 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2016.

