

MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)

Act 300 of 1949

DRIVING ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY—OVERTAKING AND PASSING, ETC.

257.634 Driving on right half of roadway; exceptions; driving on roadway having 2 or more lanes for travel in 1 direction; traveling on freeway having 3 or more lanes for travel in same direction; ordinance regulating same subject matter prohibited; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 634.

(1) Upon each roadway of sufficient width, the driver of a vehicle shall drive the vehicle upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(a) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing that movement.

(b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair or when an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway. A driver who is driving on the left half of a roadway under this subdivision shall yield the right-of-way to an oncoming vehicle traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the roadway.

(c) When a vehicle operated by a state agency or a local authority or an agent of a state agency or local authority is engaged in work on the roadway.

(d) Upon a roadway divided into 3 marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable on the roadway.

(2) Upon a roadway having 2 or more lanes for travel in 1 direction, the driver of a vehicle shall drive the vehicle in the extreme right-hand lane available for travel except as otherwise provided in this section. However, the driver of a vehicle may drive the vehicle in any lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction of travel when the lanes are occupied by a streetcar or vehicles moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic and in any left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction of travel for a reasonable distance before making a left turn or to avoid blocking, delaying, or otherwise interfering with the movement of a streetcar on a streetcar track.

(3) This section must not be construed to prohibit a vehicle traveling in the appropriate direction from traveling in any lane of a freeway having 3 or more lanes for travel in the same direction. However, a city, village, township, or county may not enact an ordinance that regulates the same subject matter as any provision of this subsection. The driver of a truck with a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds, a truck tractor, or a combination of a vehicle and trailer or semitrailer shall drive the vehicle or combination of vehicles only in either of the 2 lanes farthest to the right, except for a reasonable distance when making a left turn or where a special hazard exists that requires the use of an alternative lane for safety reasons.

(4) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1968, Act 260, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968 ;-- Am. 1976, Act 170, Imd. Eff. June 25, 1976 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 1988, Act 346, Eff. Jan. 1, 1989 ;-- Am. 2021, Act 43, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2021

257.635 Passing vehicle proceeding in opposite direction; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 635.

(1) Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, each giving to the other not less than 1/2 of the main traveled portion of the roadway as nearly as possible.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.636 Overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in same direction; overtaking a bicycle proceeding

in same direction; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 636.

(1) The following rules govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to sections 637 to 643a:

(a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at a safe distance to the left of that vehicle, and when safely clear of the overtaken vehicle shall take up a position as near the right-hand edge of the main traveled portion of the highway as is practicable.

(b) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle and shall not increase the speed of his or her vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

(2) The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at a safe distance of at least 3 feet to the left of that bicycle or, if it is impracticable to pass the bicycle at a distance of 3 feet to the left, at a safe distance to the left of that bicycle at a safe speed, and when safely clear of the overtaken bicycle shall take up a position as near the right-hand edge of the main traveled portion of the highway as is practicable.

(3) Notwithstanding section 640, if it is safe to do so, the driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction may overtake and pass the bicycle in a no-passing zone.

(4) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 1979, Act 66, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 2018, Act 279, Eff. Sept. 27, 2018 ;-- Am. 2020, Act 263, Eff. Mar. 29, 2021

257.637 Overtaking and passing on right of another vehicle or bicycle; conditions; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 637.

(1) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only if 1 or more of the following conditions exist:

(a) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn.

(b) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles of sufficient width for 2 or more lines of moving vehicles in each direction and when the vehicles are moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic.

(c) Upon a 1-way street, or upon a roadway on which traffic is restricted to 1 direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstructions and of sufficient width for 2 or more lines of moving vehicles and when the vehicles are moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic.

(2) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting the overtaking and passing in safety. The driver of a vehicle shall not overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

(3) The driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall, when otherwise permitted by this section, pass at a distance of 3 feet to the right of that bicycle or, if it is impracticable to pass the bicycle at a distance of 3 feet to the right, at a safe distance to the right of that bicycle at a safe speed.

(4) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 1979, Act 66, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 2018, Act 280, Eff. Oct. 16, 2018

Compiler's Notes: Enacting section 1 of Act 342 of 2018 provides: "Enacting section 1. Enacting section 1 of 2018 PA 280 is repealed."

257.638 Overtaking and passing on left of another vehicle; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 638.

(1) A vehicle shall not be driven to the left side of the center of a 2-lane highway or in the center lane of a 3-lane highway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless the left side or center lane is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the safe operation of a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or the vehicle overtaken.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.639 Driving to left side of roadway; limitations; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 639.

(1) A vehicle shall not be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

(a) When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within a distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction.

(b) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

(2) The limitations of subsection (1) shall not apply upon a 1-way roadway.

(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.640 No-passing zones; determination; signs or markings; traffic control devices; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 640.

(1) The state highway commission and county road commissions shall determine those portions of a highway under their jurisdiction where overtaking and passing or driving to the left of the roadway would be especially hazardous, and by appropriate signs or markings on the roadway shall indicate the beginning and end of those zones in a manner enabling an ordinary observant driver of a vehicle to observe the directions and obey them. A sign shall be placed to the left of the highway on those portions of a highway where additional notice is considered necessary.

(2) The no-passing zones provided for by this section shall be based upon a traffic survey and engineering study. Traffic-control devices installed pursuant to this section shall conform to the state manual and specifications as provided for by section 608.

(3) A person who fails to obey the traffic-control devices installed pursuant to this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1959, Act 230, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960 ;-- Am. 1965, Act 275, Imd. Eff. July 21, 1965 ;-- Am. 1970, Act 120, Imd. Eff. July 23, 1970 ;-- Am. 1971, Act 224, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 1971 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.641 Designating 1-way traffic; signs; driving to right of rotary traffic island; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 641.

(1) The state highway commissioner may designate any highway or any separate roadway under his jurisdiction for 1-way traffic and shall erect appropriate signs giving notice thereof.

(2) Upon a roadway designated and signposted for 1-way traffic a vehicle shall be driven only in the direction designated.

- (3) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of that island.
- (4) A person who violates subsection (2) or (3) is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.642 Roadway divided into 2 or more marked lanes; applicable rules; designation as HOV lane; restrictions; exceptions; designation as automated vehicle roadway or lane; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 642.

(1) If a roadway is divided into 2 or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, the following rules in addition to all other rules that are consistent with this act apply:

(a) A vehicle must be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and must not be moved from the lane until the operator has first ascertained that the movement can be safely made.

(b) On a roadway that is divided into 4 or more lanes and provides for 2-way movement of traffic, a vehicle must be operated within the extreme right-hand lane except if overtaking and passing, and must not cross the center line of the roadway except if making a left turn.

(c) On a roadway that is divided into 3 lanes and provides for 2-way movement of traffic, a vehicle must not be operated in the center lane except under any of the following circumstances:

(i) If overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction, and the center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance.

(ii) In preparation for a left turn.

(iii) If the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the same direction the vehicle is proceeding and the allocation is designated by official traffic control devices.

(d) Official traffic control devices may be erected directing specified traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway and operators of vehicles shall obey the directions of the traffic control device.

(e) Official traffic control devices may be installed prohibiting the changing of lanes on sections of roadway, and operators of vehicles shall obey the directions of the traffic control devices.

(2) If a lane is designated as an HOV lane by an agency with jurisdiction over the roadway, and is appropriately marked with traffic control devices, the lane must be reserved during the periods indicated for the exclusive use of buses and HOVs. The restrictions imposed on an HOV lane do not apply to any of the following:

(a) An authorized emergency vehicle.

(b) A law enforcement vehicle.

(c) A bus.

(d) A motorcycle.

(3) If a segment of roadway is designated as an automated vehicle roadway or a lane or ramp of an automated vehicle roadway as an automated vehicle roadway lane under section 665c, both of the following must apply:

(a) If a user fee is required under section 665c(1)(c), the user fee is paid.

(b) The motor vehicle or automated motor vehicle complies with any applicable requirements of section 665c(2).

(4) The requirements of subsection (3) apply in addition to other existing rules or regulations governing the use of an automated vehicle roadway or automated vehicle roadway lane that are not inconsistent with subsection (3).

(5) An individual who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction and may be fined as provided in section 907.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1974, Act 289, Imd. Eff. Oct. 15, 1974 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 2008, Act 304, Imd. Eff. Dec. 9, 2008 ;-- Am. 2012, Act 498, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013 ;-- Am. 2022, Act 179, Imd. Eff. July 25, 2022 ;-- Am. 2023, Act 148, Imd. Eff. Oct. 10, 2023

257.643 Distance between vehicles; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 643.

(1) The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), a person shall not operate a motor vehicle with a gross weight, loaded or unloaded, in excess of 5,000 pounds outside the corporate limits of a city or village, within 500 feet of a like vehicle described in this subsection, moving in the same direction, except when overtaking and passing the vehicle.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), a distance of not less than 500 feet shall be maintained between 2 or more driven vehicles being delivered from 1 place to another.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to a vehicle in a platoon.

(5) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 2016, Act 332, Imd. Eff. Dec. 9, 2016

257.643a Leaving space between trucks or truck tractors; passing; exclusion for platoon; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 643a.

(1) The operator of a truck or truck tractor, when traveling upon a highway outside of a business or residence district, when conditions permit, shall leave sufficient space between the vehicle and another truck or truck tractor so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy the space without danger. This subsection does not prevent the operator of a truck or truck tractor from overtaking and passing another truck, truck tractor, or other vehicle in a lawful manner. This subsection does not apply to a vehicle in a platoon.

(2) When traveling upon a highway, the operator of a truck or truck tractor that is in a platoon shall allow reasonable access for other vehicles to afford those vehicles safe movement among lanes to exit or enter the highway.

(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: Add. 1957, Act 291, Eff. Sept. 27, 1957 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 2016, Act 332, Imd. Eff. Dec. 9, 2016 ;-- Am. 2018, Act 377, Eff. Mar. 17, 2019

257.643b Leaving space between snowplows; passing exception; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 643b.

(1) The operator of a vehicle shall not follow a snowplow more closely than 200 feet.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply when the operator of a vehicle is legally overtaking or passing a snowplow.

(3) The operator of a vehicle that is not a snowplow who approaches a snowplow from the rear that is stopped at or in an intersection shall stop not less than 20 feet from the snowplow.

(4) A person that violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

(5) As used in this section, "snowplow" means a vehicle that is all of the following:

(a) Operating on behalf of this state, a county, a county road commission, or a municipality.

(b) Actively engaging in snow and ice removal, snowplowing, salting, or sanding.

(c) Operating lights as described in section 698(5)(d).

History: Add. 2024, Act 72, Imd. Eff. July 8, 2024

257.644 Driving on highway divided into 2 roadways; parking or driving on dividing space, barrier, or section; use of crossovers on limited access highways; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 644.

(1) When a highway has been divided into 2 roadways by leaving an intervening space or by a physical barrier or clearly indicated dividing section constructed to impede vehicular traffic, a vehicle shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway and a vehicle shall not park or be driven over, across, or within the dividing space, barrier, or section, except through an opening in the physical barrier, dividing section, or space or at a crossover or intersection established by public authority. Crossovers on limited access highways shall not be used except by vehicles described in section 603, road service vehicles while going to or returning from servicing a disabled vehicle, and as otherwise permitted by authorized signs. "Road service vehicles" means vehicles clearly marked and readily recognizable as a vehicle used to assist disabled vehicles.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1964, Act 222, Eff. Aug. 28, 1964 ;-- Am. 1966, Act 184, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1966 ;-- Am. 1967, Act 277, Eff. Nov. 2, 1967 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.645 Driving onto or from limited access roadway; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 645.

(1) A person shall not drive a vehicle onto or from a limited access roadway except at entrances and exits established by public authority.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979

257.646 Repealed. 1967, Act 277, Eff. Nov. 2, 1967.

Compiler's Notes: The repealed section pertained to limited access highway restrictions on use.