

New Arkansas Driving Laws

With the Arkansas Legislature in session several new laws have been passed which you might not be aware of but could affect you while driving.

Arkansas Act 1090



Act 1090, which went into effect July 28, 2021, amends Arkansas Code § 27-51-301(a) and (b), concerning the exceptions to the requirement that vehicles be driven on the right side of a multilane roadway, to read as follows:

- When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing that movement;
- When all other lanes for traveling in the same direction are closed to traffic while under construction or repair;
- When all other lanes for traveling in the same direction are in disrepair or are in an otherwise un-drivable or unsafe condition; or
- When a vehicle is preparing to exit the multilane highway on the left.

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/FTPDocument?file=1090&path=%2FACTS%2F2021R%2FPublic%2F&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R&Search=>

Arkansas Act 538



Act 538 amends Arkansas Code § 27-14-716(c), concerning the display of a license plate to read as follows:

- Except as provided in subdivision (c) (2) of this section, placing any type of cover over a license plate which makes the license plate more difficult to read or which reduces the reflective properties of the license plate is prohibited.

- However, if installed to manufacturer specifications or generally accepted installation practices, the following devices or the cargo the device is carrying may obscure a license plate on the vehicle:
 - A trailer-hitch;
 - A trailer being towed by the motor vehicle;
 - A wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier; or
 - A bicycle rack

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/FTPDocument?file=538&path=%2FACTS%2F2021R%2FPublic%2F&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R&Se arch=>

Arkansas Act 376



Act 376 which goes into effect January 1, 2022, amends Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(265), concerning special revenues enumerated, to read as follows:

- Additional registration fees for electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles under § 27-14-614 – definitions:
 - Electric vehicle includes a plug-in electric vehicle and means a vehicle that:
 - Is propelled by an electric motor powered by a battery or other electrical device incorporated into the vehicles; and
 - Is not propelled by an internal combustion engine;
 - Hybrid vehicle means a vehicle that draws propulsion energy from both an internal combustion engine and an energy storage device
 - Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle means a vehicle with a hybrid propulsion system that is propelled by a combination of:
 - Electricity supplied through a rechargeable battery that can be recharged by plugging into an electrical outlet or electric vehicle charging station; and
 - An internal combustion engine.
- In addition to other fees required to be paid to register a vehicle under this subchapter, there is levied an annual fee of:
 - Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each electric vehicle registered;
 - Fifty dollars (\$50) for each hybrid vehicle registered; and
 - One hundred dollars (\$100) for each plug-in hybrid electric vehicle registered.

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/FTPDocument?file=376&path=%2FACTS%2F2021R%2FPublic%2F&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R&Se arch=>