

# VEHICLE CODE

## SECTION 21650-21711

**21655.9.** (a) (1) Whenever the Department of Transportation or a local authority authorizes or permits exclusive or preferential use of highway lanes or highway access ramps for high-occupancy vehicles pursuant to Section 21655.5, the use of those lanes or ramps shall also be extended to vehicles that are issued distinctive decals, labels, or other identifiers pursuant to Section 5205.5 regardless of vehicle occupancy or ownership.

(2) A local authority during periods of peak congestion shall suspend for a lane the access privileges extended pursuant to paragraph (1) for those vehicles issued distinctive decals, labels, or other identifiers pursuant to Section 5205.5, if a periodic review of lane performance by that local authority discloses both of the following factors regarding the lane:

(A) The lane, or a portion of the lane, exceeds a level of service C, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 65089 of the Government Code.

(B) The operation or projected operation of vehicles in the lane, or a portion of the lane, will significantly increase congestion.

(b) A person shall not drive a vehicle described in subdivision (a) of Section 5205.5 with a single occupant upon a high-occupancy vehicle lane pursuant to this section unless the decal, label, or other identifier issued pursuant to Section 5205.5 is properly displayed on the vehicle, and the vehicle registration described in Section 5205.5 is with the vehicle.

(c) A person shall not operate or own a vehicle displaying a decal, label, or other identifier, as described in Section 5205.5, if that decal, label, or identifier was not issued for that vehicle pursuant to Section 5205.5. A violation of this subdivision is a misdemeanor.

(d) If the provisions in Section 5205.5 authorizing the department to issue decals, labels, or other identifiers to hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles are repealed, vehicles displaying those decals, labels, or other identifiers shall not access high-occupancy vehicle lanes without meeting the occupancy requirements otherwise applicable to those lanes.

(e) (1) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015, or until the date that the Secretary of State receives the notice described in subdivision (l) of Section 5205.5, whichever occurs first, and as of that date is repealed.

(2) However, with respect to a vehicle described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 5205.5, this section shall be operative only until July 1, 2011, or until the date the Secretary of State receives the notice described in subdivision (l) of Section 5205.5, whichever occurs first.

(3) With respect to a vehicle described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 5205.5, this section shall become operative on January 1, 2012, and shall be operative only until January 1, 2015, or until the date the Secretary of State receives the notice described in subdivision (l) of Section 5205.5, whichever occurs first.