

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1568

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### As Passed House

March 11, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to restricting the distance a vehicle may travel in a two-way left turn lane.

**Brief Description:** Restricting the distance a vehicle may travel in a two-way left-turn lane.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget (originally sponsored by Representatives Zellinsky and Fisher; by request of Washington State Patrol).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Transportation Policy & Budget: 2/24/97 [DPS].

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/11/97, 96-1.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY & BUDGET

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives K. Schmidt, Chairman; Hankins, Vice Chairman; Mielke, Vice Chairman; Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fisher, Ranking Minority Member; Blalock, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cooper, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Buck; Constantine; DeBolt; Hatfield; Johnson; Murray; O'Brien; Ogden; Radcliff; Robertson; Romero; Scott; Skinner; Wood and Zellinsky.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Backlund; Cairnes; Chandler and Sterk.

**Staff:** Jerry Long (786-7306).

**Background:** The existing statute regarding two-way left turn lanes only states that a vehicle may not pass another in a two-way left turn lane. Drivers often travel significant distances in two-way left turn lanes before making a turn or entering traffic. This increases the risk of right of way collisions, especially during peak traffic hours.

**Summary of Bill:** The distance which a vehicle can travel in a two-way left turn lane is 300 feet.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This will reduce the number of vehicles traveling long distances in a two-way left turn lane. The anticipated benefit is a reduction in the number of right of way collisions, especially during peak traffic hours. This will also give law enforcement officers probable cause to stop a motorist traveling a long distance in a two-way left turn lane which increases the risk of an accident.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Captain Marsh Pugh, Washington State Patrol.