

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5541

As Passed House

April 14, 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: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Wood, Goings and Winsley; by request of Washington State Patrol).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation Policy & Budget: 4/2/97, 4/3/97 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/14/97, 91-6.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY & BUDGET

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 24 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; Cairnes; Chandler; DeBolt; Gardner; Hatfield; Johnson; Murray; O'Brien; Ogden; Radcliff; Robertson; Romero; Scott; Skinner; Sterk and Zellinsky.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Backlund.

Staff: Jerry Long (786-7306).

Background: The existing statute regarding two-way left turn lanes only states that one 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 a vehicle can travel in a two-way left turn lane is set at 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 probably cause to stop a motorist traveling a long distance in a two-way left turn lane.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Chief Annette Sandberg, Washington State Patrol.