

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5541

As Passed Senate, March 12, 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: 2/6/97, 2/25/97 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 3/12/97, 45-3.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5541 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Prince, Chair; Benton, Vice Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Haugen, Goings, Horn, Jacobsen, Morton, Oke, Patterson, Prentice and Rasmussen.

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 in 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 to help reduce the number of collisions.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Wood, prime sponsor; Marsh Pugh, WSP (pro).

