

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5541

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Transportation, February 25, 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:** Senators Wood, Goings and Winsley; by request of Washington State Patrol.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/6/97, 2/25/97 [DPS].

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

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute bill designates the distance as 300 feet in which a vehicle can travel in a two-way left turn lane as compared to the original bill which was 100 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).