

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 495**

Short Title: Left Turn on Red.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Hensley, Gulley; Adams, Allen, Allred, Baddour, Barbee, Barefoot, Blue, Blust, Bonner, Bowie, Boyd-McIntyre, Brubaker, Buchanan, Church, Clary, Coates, Cole, Cox, Crawford, Creech, Culp, Culpepper, Cunningham, Daughtry, Dedmon, Dockham, Edwards, Fitch, Fox, Gibson, Goodwin, Grady, Haire, Hall, Harrington, Hill, Holliman, Holmes, Howard, Hunter, Hurley, Insko, Jarrell, Jeffus, Justus, Lucas, McAllister, McComas, McCombs, McMahan, Michaux, Miner, Mitchell, Morris, Nye, Oldham, Owens, Preston, Rayfield, Russell, Saunders, Setzer, Sexton, Shubert, Smith, Starnes, Sutton, Teague, Thompson, Tolson, Underhill, Wainwright, Walend, Warner, Warren, Warwick, Weatherly, Weiss, West, C. Wilson, G. Wilson, Womble, and Yongue.

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Referred to: Judiciary II.

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March 6, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW LEFT TURNS ON RED IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-158(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Control of Vehicles at Intersections. –

(1) When a stop sign has been erected or installed at an intersection, it shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to fail to stop in obedience thereto and yield the right-of-way to vehicles operating on the designated main-traveled or through highway. When stop signs have been erected at three or more entrances to an intersection, the driver, after stopping in obedience thereto, may proceed with caution.

(2) Vehicles facing a red light controlling traffic passing straight through an intersection from a steady or strobe beam stoplight shall not enter the intersection while the steady or strobe beam stoplight is emitting a red light controlling traffic passing straight through an ~~intersection;~~ ~~provided that, except~~ intersection with the following exceptions:

a. ~~where~~ Where prohibited by an appropriate sign, vehicular traffic facing a red light controlling traffic passing straight

1 through an intersection, after coming to a complete stop at the  
2 intersection, may enter the intersection to make a right turn but  
3 ~~such~~ the turning vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to  
4 pedestrians and to other traffic using the intersection.

- 5 b. Where prohibited by an appropriate sign, vehicular traffic that  
6 is (i) in the leftmost lane of travel on a one-way street, (ii)  
7 facing a red light, and (iii) at an intersection with another one-  
8 way street with traffic traveling from the turning driver's right  
9 to the turning driver's left may enter the intersection and make a  
10 left turn into the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to  
11 traffic. The turning vehicle shall come to a complete stop and  
12 shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and to other traffic  
13 using the intersection.

14 When the stoplight is emitting a steady yellow circular light  
15 on a traffic signal controlling traffic passing straight through an  
16 intersection or a steady yellow arrow light on a traffic signal  
17 controlling traffic turning at an intersection, vehicles facing the  
18 yellow light are warned that the related green light is being  
19 terminated or a red light will be immediately forthcoming.  
20 When the stoplight is emitting a steady green light, vehicles  
21 may proceed with due care through the intersection subject to  
22 the rights of pedestrians and other vehicles as may otherwise be  
23 provided by law.

- 24 (3) When a flashing red light has been erected or installed at an  
25 intersection, approaching vehicles facing the red light shall stop and  
26 yield the right-of-way to vehicles in or approaching the intersection.  
27 The right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable to making  
28 a stop at a stop sign.
- 29 (4) When a flashing yellow light has been erected or installed at an  
30 intersection, approaching vehicles facing the yellow flashing light may  
31 proceed through the intersection with caution, yielding the right-of-  
32 way to vehicles in or approaching the intersection.
- 33 (5) When a stop sign, stoplight, flashing light, or other traffic-control  
34 device authorized by subsection (a) of this section requires a vehicle to  
35 stop at an intersection, the driver shall stop at (i) an appropriately  
36 marked stop line, or if none, (ii) before entering a marked crosswalk,  
37 or if none, (iii) before entering the intersection at the point nearest the  
38 intersecting street where the driver has a view of approaching traffic  
39 on the intersecting street."

40 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2001.