

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 1026

Short Title: Left Turn on Red – Raleigh. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Gulley; Blackwood, Blust, Cleveland, Dollar, McMahan, Rhodes, Stam, Walend, and Womble.

Referred to: Transportation.

March 31, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PERMIT LEFT TURNS ON RED AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS IN RALEIGH.

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, where prohibited by an appropriate sign vehicular traffic facing a red light controlling traffic passing straight through an intersection, after coming to a complete stop at the intersection, may enter the intersection to make a right turn but such~~ When a steady or strobe beam stoplight is emitting a red light controlling traffic passing through an intersection, an approaching vehicle facing the red light shall come to a stop and shall not enter the intersection. After coming to a complete stop and unless prohibited by an appropriate sign, that approaching vehicle may turn under one of the following conditions:

a. That vehicle may make a right turn. The turning vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and to other traffic using the intersection.

1 b. If that vehicle is in the leftmost lane of travel on a one-way
2 street that intersects with another one-way street with traffic
3 traveling from the turning driver's right to the turning driver's
4 left, then that vehicle may enter the intersection and make a left
5 turn into the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic.
6 The turning vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians
7 and to other traffic using the intersection.

8 (2a) When ~~the~~ a stoplight is emitting a steady yellow circular light on a
9 traffic signal controlling traffic passing straight through an intersection
10 or a steady yellow arrow light on a traffic signal controlling traffic
11 turning at an intersection, vehicles facing the yellow light are warned
12 that the related green light is being terminated or a red light will be
13 immediately forthcoming. When the stoplight is emitting a steady
14 green light, vehicles may proceed with due care through the
15 intersection subject to the rights of pedestrians and other vehicles as
16 may otherwise be provided by law.

17 (3) When a flashing red light has been erected or installed at an
18 intersection, approaching vehicles facing the red light shall stop and
19 yield the right-of-way to vehicles in or approaching the intersection.
20 The right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable to making
21 a stop at a stop sign.

22 (4) When a flashing yellow light has been erected or installed at an
23 intersection, approaching vehicles facing the yellow flashing light may
24 proceed through the intersection with caution, yielding the
25 right-of-way to vehicles in or approaching the intersection.

26 (5) When a stop sign, stoplight, flashing light, or other traffic-control
27 device authorized by subsection (a) of this section requires a vehicle to
28 stop at an intersection, the driver shall stop at (i) an appropriately
29 marked stop line, or if none, (ii) before entering a marked crosswalk,
30 or if none, (iii) before entering the intersection at the point nearest the
31 intersecting street where the driver has a view of approaching traffic
32 on the intersecting street."

33 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Transportation shall collect data regarding
34 pedestrians who are involved in accidents at intersections because of a driver's failure to
35 yield the right-of-way while turning right at a red light. The data shall include
36 information regarding the number of disabled pedestrians, including individuals with
37 visual or mobility-related disabilities, who are involved in right turn on red accidents.
38 The Department shall report the data to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight
39 Committee beginning January 1, 2006. The Transportation Oversight Committee shall
40 make recommendations to the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly
41 regarding the appropriate number of drivers license points that should be assessed
42 against a driver who fails to yield to a pedestrian while turning right at a red light.

43 The Transportation Oversight Committee may study whether to allow
44 vehicles to make a left turn on a red light. If the Committee studies the issue of left turn

1 on red, it shall consult with representatives of disabled individuals and shall take into
2 consideration any increased risk to pedestrians that allowing left turn on red may create.

3 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation, as part of any regularly
4 scheduled updates, shall revise the written portion of the drivers license examination
5 and any publications related to obtaining a drivers license to reflect the changes in
6 Sections 1 and 2 of this act.

7 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation, counties, and
8 municipalities are encouraged to provide public service announcements on television
9 and radio informing the public of the provisions of this act. The public service
10 announcements should be scheduled to occur during times most likely to reach a broad
11 audience.

12 **SECTION 5.** This act shall apply only to the following intersections in the
13 City of Raleigh:

14 Salisbury and Jones Streets

15 Salisbury and Lane Streets

16 Wilmington and Jones Streets

17 Wilmington and Lane Streets.

18 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2005, and expires on
19 July 1, 2008.