

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Although additional traffic signs will have to erected to prohibited some left turns on red, the cost of the additional signs will be covered by the Dept. of Transportation, Division of Highway's current operating budget.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

In regards to this bill, the State Traffic Engineer of the Dept. of Transportation indicates the following:

“From a traffic operations standpoint, permitting left turns on red at intersections on one-way streets will improve roadway capacity and overall traffic flow. In addition, there would be a reduction in delay, congestion, fuel consumption, and vehicle emissions and pollutants. Left turns on red would enable motorist on the side street to turn on red to enter the progressive traffic flow on signals systems on the main street. From information supplied by the Federal Highway Administration, 41 states now allow left turns on red at one-way street intersections. It is important for highway safety and motorist expectancy that traffic laws be consistent nationwide.

The only negative aspect of left turns on red is a possible adverse effect to pedestrian safety. However, we are not aware of any significant pedestrian safety problems related to right turns on red, and there will be far fewer left-turn-on-red locations since this move would be permitted only at intersections on one-way streets. If a problem is foreseen or were to develop at any particular location, signs could be erected to prohibit the left-turn-on-red movement.”

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