

House File 170 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 170

BY GJERDE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the manner in which motor vehicles turn at
2 intersections, and making penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.311, subsection 1, Code 2023, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The driver of a vehicle intending to turn at an
4 intersection shall do ~~so as follows~~ all of the following, as
5 applicable:

6 a. Both the approach for a right turn and right turn shall
7 be made as close as ~~practical~~ practicable to the right-hand
8 curb or edge of the roadway.

9 b. Approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of
10 the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof
11 and, after entering the intersection, the left turn shall be
12 made so as to depart from the intersection to the right of the
13 center line and as close as practicable to the center line of
14 the roadway being entered.

15 c. Approach for a left turn from a two-way street into
16 a one-way street shall be made in that portion of the right
17 half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by
18 passing to the right of such center line where it enters the
19 intersection and, after entering the intersection, the left
20 turn shall be made so as to depart from the intersection as
21 close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the
22 street being entered. A

23 d. Approach for a left turn from a one-way street into a
24 two-way street shall be made by passing as close as practicable
25 to the left-hand curb or edge of the street and, after entering
26 the intersection, the left turn shall be made so as to depart
27 from the intersection to the right of the center line and as
28 close as practicable to the center line of the street being
29 entered ~~upon leaving the intersection.~~

30 Sec. 2. Section 321.311, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
31 following new subsection:

32 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. The driver of a vehicle making a turn
33 at an intersection from a laned highway into another laned
34 highway shall maintain and complete the turn by approaching,
35 entering, and departing the intersection in the same

1 corresponding lane, as determined from the right-hand edge of
2 the roadway for a vehicle turning right, and from the left-hand
3 edge of the roadway for a vehicle turning left.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to the manner in which motor vehicles
8 turn at intersections. Under current law, a driver making
9 a left turn must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles
10 approaching from the opposite direction which are within the
11 intersection or so close thereto as to constitute an immediate
12 hazard, before making the left turn (Code section 321.320).
13 In addition, the driver of a vehicle making a left turn is
14 required to depart from the intersection to the right of
15 the center line of the roadway being entered (Code section
16 321.311). The bill requires the driver to also keep the
17 vehicle as close as practicable to the center line.

18 If the left turn is from a two-way street into a one-way
19 street, the bill requires the driver, after entering the
20 intersection, to depart from the intersection as close as
21 practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the street being
22 entered. If the left turn is from a one-way street into a
23 two-way street, the bill requires the driver to make the turn
24 as close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the
25 street and, after entering the intersection, to depart from the
26 intersection as close as practicable to the center line of the
27 street being entered.

28 The bill requires a driver making a turn at an intersection
29 from a laned highway into another laned highway to maintain and
30 complete the turn by approaching, entering, and departing the
31 intersection in the same corresponding lane. A "laned highway"
32 is a highway the roadway of which is divided into three or more
33 clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

34 A violation of Code section 321.311 is punishable by a
35 scheduled fine of \$135.