

39:4-115

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 39:4-115 (Right turn on red)

Laws of 1976 Chapter 46

Bill No. S670

Sponsor(s) Menza

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Transportation and Communications

Senate Law, Public Safety & Defense

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of passage: Assembly June 10, 1976

Senate March 3, 1976

Date of approval July 6, 1976

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~No~~

Senate Yes ~~No~~

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto message Yes No

Message on signing Yes ~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

10/4/76

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SENATE, No. 670

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1976 SESSION

By Senator MENZA

AN ACT concerning traffic regulations and amending R. S. 39:4-115.

1 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
2 of New Jersey:

1 1. R. S. 39:4-115 is amended to read as follows:

2 39:4-115. The driver of a vehicle or the motorman of a streetcar  
3 \*a.\* intending to turn to the right or left at an intersection where  
4 traffic is controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic or police  
5 officer, shall proceed to **[ : a.]** make either turn with proper care  
6 to avoid accidents and\*, *except as provided in b. below,*\* only upon  
7 the "Go" signal unless otherwise directed by a traffic or police  
8 officer, an official sign or special signal; or b. **[when a sign is in**  
9 *place permitting a turn, make a right turn with due care, caution*  
10 *and circumspection after fully stopping his vehicle as close as*  
11 *practicable at the entrance to the crosswalk on the near side of the*  
12 *intersection or, if none, then at the entrance to the intersection in*  
13 *obedience to a steady red signal, but shall yield the right of way*  
14 *to pedestrians and other traffic proceeding as directed by the signal*  
15 *at said intersection, except that the State, municipal or county*  
16 *authority having jurisdiction over the highway to be entered may*  
17 *prohibit any such right turn against a steady red signal at any*  
18 *intersection] \*intending to turn right at an intersection where  
19 traffic is controlled by a traffic control signal shall, unless an official  
20 sign of the State, municipality, or county authority having jurisdic-  
21 tion over the intersection prohibits the same, proceed to make the  
22 turn upon a "Stop" or "Caution" signal with proper care to avoid  
23 accidents after coming to a full stop, observing traffic in all direc-  
24 tions and yielding to all pedestrians and other traffic traveling in  
25 a direction in which the turn will be made. Both the approach for  
26 and the turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-*

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

27 *hand curb or edge of the roadway, unless such intersection is other-*  
28 *wise posted\*.*

1 2. This act shall take effect \***[90]**\* \*180\* days following  
2 enactment.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 670**  
[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: MAY 12, 1976

This bill permits the driver of a vehicle to make a right turn at a red light unless there is an official prohibitory sign of the State, county or municipal authority having jurisdiction over the roadway. The turn may be made after the driver stops fully and proceeds with caution, yielding to traffic and pedestrians.

The State Energy Office supports this bill and contends that enactment of this measure would save approximately five million gallons of gasoline each year in New Jersey by facilitating the flow of traffic, which would thereby result in a decrease of motor vehicle emissions. The State Energy Office points out that there has been no appreciable increase in the number of traffic accidents or pedestrian fatalities in the twenty-four states that presently permit right turns at red lights.

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE, No. 670

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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ADOPTED APRIL 26, 1976

Amend page 1, section 1, line 3, before "intending", insert "a."

Amend page 1, section 1, line 5, after "proceed to", omit ": a."

Amend page 1, section 1, line 6, after "accidents and", insert ", except as provided in b. below,".

Amend page 1, section 1, lines 8 through 17, delete 8 through 17 and insert new subsection b. to read as follows: "intending to turn right at an intersection where traffic is controlled by a traffic control signal shall, unless an official sign of the State, municipality, or county authority having jurisdiction over the intersection prohibits the same, proceed to make the turn upon a 'Stop' or 'Caution' signal with proper care to avoid accidents after coming to a full stop, observing traffic in all directions and yielding to all pedestrians and other traffic traveling in a direction in which the turn will be made. Both the approach for and the turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, unless such intersection is otherwise posted."

Amend page 1, section 2, line 1, delete "90", and insert "180".

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 670**

with Senate committee amendments

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: APRIL 26, 1976

This bill would amend the motor vehicles law to permit drivers to make a right turn at red lights unless there is an official prohibitory sign of the State, county or municipal authority having jurisdiction over the roadway. The turn may be made after the driver stops fully and proceeds with caution, yielding to traffic and pedestrians.

Enactment of this measure is expected to result in significantly lower consumption of fuel thus saving energy resources and lowering pollution levels. Traffic flow is also expected to be facilitated.

JULY 6, 1976

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUCK CAMPBELL

Governor Brendan Byrne signed into law today a bill permitting motorists to make right turns on red signals under certain circumstances.

The measure, S-670, sponsored by Senator Alexander J. Menza, D-Union, permits motorists to make the right turns after coming to a full stop and observing traffic in all directions, unless the intersection is posted to the contrary.

The new law becomes effective in 180 days, or on January 2, 1977. The effective date was delayed to allow time to educate the public.

"This measure will save millions of gallons of gasoline each year, and at the same time will contribute toward a cleaner environment by cutting down on motor vehicle emissions," said Byrne.

The Governor said studies have shown there is no appreciable increase in the number of motor vehicle accidents in states where right turns are permitted at red lights.

The bill requires that before turning right at a red light, motorists must yield to all pedestrians and other traffic traveling in the direction in which the turn will be made.

The bill permits the state, counties or municipalities to prohibit right turns on red signals at intersections over which they have jurisdiction by posting an official traffic sign.

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