

1 **VEHICLE ACCIDENT LIABILITY AMENDMENTS**

2 2024 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard**

5 Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

6

LONG TITLE

7 **General Description:**

8 This bill clarifies that a vehicle operator intending to turn left is not required to yield the
9 right-of-way to a vehicle operator approaching from the opposite direction that fails to
10 obey a certain traffic-control device at the intersection and is not liable for a resulting
11 accident.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This bill:

14 ► clarifies that a vehicle operator intending to turn left is not required to yield the
15 right-of-way to a vehicle operator approaching from the opposite direction that fails
16 to stop or yield when required by a ~~H→ [traffic-control device]~~ stop sign or steady red signal ←H
17 at the intersection;

18 ► clarifies that the vehicle operator intending to turn left is not liable for a resulting
19 accident; and

20 ► makes technical changes.

21 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22 None

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24 None

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 AMENDS:

27 **41-6a-903**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412

H.B. 144



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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **41-6a-903** is amended to read:

41-6a-903. Yield right-of-way -- Vehicle turning left -- Entering or crossing highway other than from another roadway -- Merging lanes.

(1) The operator of a vehicle:

(a) except as provided in Subsection (2), intending to turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle operator approaching from the opposite direction which is so close to the turning vehicle operator as to constitute an immediate hazard;

(b) about to enter or cross a highway from any place other than another highway shall yield the right-of-way to all [~~vehicles~~] vehicle operators approaching on the highway to be entered or crossed; and

(c) traveling in a lane that is about to merge into a continuing lane, shall yield the right-of-way to all [~~vehicles~~] vehicle operators traveling in the continuing lane and which are so close as to be an immediate hazard.

(2) (a) The operator of a vehicle intending to turn to the left at an intersection is not required to yield the right-of-way to a vehicle operator approaching from the opposite direction if the vehicle operator approaching from the opposite direction fails to stop or yield when required to stop or yield by a \hat{H} → [~~traffic-control device~~] **stop sign or steady red signal** ← \hat{H} at that intersection.

(b) If the vehicle operator approaching from the opposite direction fails to stop or yield when required to stop or yield by the traffic-control device at that intersection as described in Subsection (2)(a), and the vehicle operator intending to turn to the left and the approaching vehicle operator are involved in a collision at that intersection, the vehicle operator intending to turn to the left is not liable for any damages resulting from the collision.

~~[(2)]~~ (3) A violation of Subsection (1) is an infraction.

Section 2. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.