

# Legislative Analysis



## PASSING IN CENTER LANE OR LEFT-TURN LANE

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4997 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Tim Sneller**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 4998 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Jack O'Malley**

**Committee: Transportation**  
**Complete to 9-20-21**

### SUMMARY:

House Bills 4997 and 4998 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prohibit driving in a two-way left-turn lane unless making an immediate left turn and to remove provisions that now govern using the center lane of a three-lane highway to pass another vehicle.

**House Bill 4997** would add a new section 638a to the act to prohibit a driver from driving in *a two-way left-turn lane* for the purpose of overtaking and passing another vehicle or for the purpose of traveling unless making an immediate left turn.

*Two-way left-turn lane* would mean a lane that meets both of the following:

- It can be used by traffic traveling in either direction as part of a left-turn maneuver.
- It is marked on each side by a normal broken yellow line and a normal solid yellow line to delineate its edges.<sup>1</sup>

An individual violating these provisions would be responsible for a civil infraction.

Proposed MCL 257.638a

**House Bill 4998** would amend section 638 of the act, which currently prohibits passing another vehicle to the left of the center of a two-lane highway or in the center lane of a three-lane highway unless there is enough distance free of oncoming traffic to do so safely. The bill would remove the references to driving in the center lane of a three-lane highway to pass another vehicle.

An individual violating these provisions is responsible for a civil infraction.

MCL 257.638

The bills are tie-barred to one another, which means that neither could take effect unless both were enacted.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Figure 3B-7 on page 357 of the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices:  
[https://mdotcf.state.mi.us/public/tands/Details\\_Web/mmutcdcompleteinteractive.pdf](https://mdotcf.state.mi.us/public/tands/Details_Web/mmutcdcompleteinteractive.pdf)

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

A fiscal analysis is in progress.

Legislative Analyst: E. Best  
Fiscal Analyst: Robin Risko

---

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.