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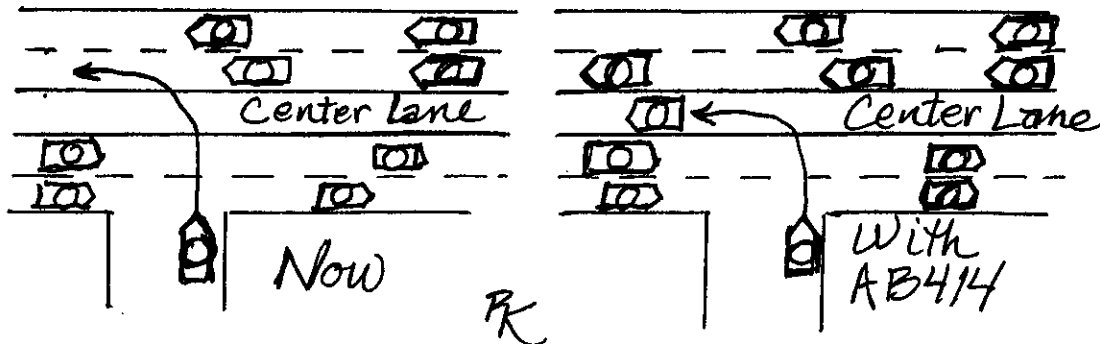
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AB 414: Legalizes Left Turn into Center Lane – Ron Knecht, AD40, before Nevada Assembly Transportation Com., Vonne Chowning, Chair – 3.4.2003

1) What the bill does: Makes legal something the large majority of drivers already regularly do, something already permitted in many states: making a left turn into a center lane and waiting there for an opening into which to merge in the destination lane.



2) Sean Carter's survey: 77% of drivers needing this option use it already, although it's technically not legal. (33% didn't need it; 52% used it and the other 15% waited; 77/23).

3) What other states do: Some states do not have center lanes. Of those that do, some address this in statute and some do not. California and Arkansas expressly provide for this usage in statute. I believe the practice is widespread in states with center lanes.

4) Value of this option to motorists: In my view, it's safer than the current limitation.

- a) Reduces the taking of chances by motorists in heavy traffic. This benefit is slightly offset by putting more traffic in the center lane.
- b) Reduces congestion, waiting time and irritation in the left-turn/forward lane or exit from a parking lot.

I believe this bill will clear up motorist and law officer confusion on this matter.

5) Amendment to establish right of way: Mock up incorporates what drafting was not able, in the time crunch before the last bill-drop date, to do. It establishes that the first vehicle to enter the center lane has the right of way. This provision was requested by the Nevada Highway Patrol, and with it NHP has no objection to this bill. Ms. Paslov-Thomas prepared the language and mock-up, and she and staff have done their usual outstanding job.

6) No cost or problem for DMV: DMV edits the driver's manual after the Legislative session to incorporate all changes in traffic law. When DMV discovered that its manual was no longer in conformance with the law, which apparently had been modified to eliminate this option, it did not throw out any manuals or incur any significant costs. With the planned change after the Legislative session, this correction will be even easier to incorporate as a revision to the manual in the normal course of business, with no cost.

7) Support/opposition for this measure: Law enforcement (Messrs. Olson & Nadeau) and Washoe County School District. Others? I am not aware of any testimony in opposition.