

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 1501

Short Title: Car Bumper Heights.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Bowman.

Referred to: Judiciary.

May 1, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE HEIGHTS OF FRONT BUMPER OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES OPERATED ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
section to read:

**"§ 20-135.5. Bumper height.**

No four-wheeled motor vehicle shall be operated on the highways of this State  
without bumpers on the front and rear of the vehicle. The front bumper must be no  
higher than 28 inches above the pavement, with the distance measured from the  
pavement to the bottom edge of the bumper with the tires on the vehicle properly  
inflated. This section shall not apply to property hauling vehicles as defined in G.S. 20-  
4.01(31)."

Sec. 2. G.S. 20-183.3(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Before an approval certificate may be issued for a motor vehicle, the vehicle  
must be inspected by a safety equipment inspection station, and if required by Chapter  
20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, must be found to possess in safe operating  
condition the following articles and equipment:

- (1) Brakes,
- (2) Lights,
- (3) Horn,
- (4) Steering mechanism,
- (5) Windshield wiper,
- (6) Directional signals,

- 1           (7)    Tires,  
2           (8)    Rearview mirror or ~~mirrors~~-mirrors,  
3           (9)    Bumpers.

4        No inspection certificate shall be issued by a safety equipment inspection station for  
5 a motor vehicle manufactured after model year 1967 unless the vehicle is equipped with  
6 such emission control devices to reduce air pollution as were installed at the time of  
7 manufacture which are readily visible, provided the foregoing requirements shall not  
8 apply where such devices have been removed for the purpose of converting the motor  
9 vehicle to operate on natural or liquified petroleum gas or other modifications have been  
10 made in order to reduce air pollution, further provided that such modifications shall  
11 have first been approved by the Department of Water and Air Resources [Department of  
12 Natural Resources and Community Development].

13        In addition to the items listed above, safety inspection equipment stations shall  
14 inspect the exhaust systems of all vehicles inspected and report the condition of each  
15 exhaust system to the owners or to the persons offering the vehicles for inspection.

16        The inspection requirements herein provided for shall not exceed the standards  
17 provided in the current General Statutes for such equipment."

18        Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of Motor  
19 Vehicles \$10,000 for the 1989-90 fiscal year to implement the inspection of bumpers on  
20 certain motor vehicles.

21        Sec. 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989, except for Sections 1  
22 and 2 which shall become effective October 1, 1989.