

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 986
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10563-NEa-99

Short Title: Restrict Unrestrained Transportation of Dogs. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Martin.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT RESTRICTING THE TRANSPORTATION OF DOGS IN THE OPEN BED OR
3 OPEN CARGO AREA OF A VEHICLE AND INSTRUCTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON DOG SAFETY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-135.2B reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 20-135.2B. Transporting children under 16 years of age or dogs in open bed or open**
8 **cargo area of a vehicle prohibited; exceptions.**

9 ...

10 (b1) The operator of a vehicle having an open bed or open cargo area shall ensure a dog is
11 not transported in the bed or cargo area of that vehicle unless the dog is (i) under the physical
12 control of a person other than the vehicle operator, (ii) humanely secured in a cage or other
13 container, or (iii) humanely restrained by a harness manufactured for the purpose of restraining
14 animals.

15 (c) Any person violating this section shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a
16 penalty of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), even if more than one child less than 16
17 years of age or dog is riding in the open bed or open cargo area of a vehicle. A person found
18 responsible for a violation of this section may not be assessed court costs.

19"

20 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of
21 Transportation the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
22 2022-2023 fiscal year to study issues related to the safe transportation of dogs. The Department
23 of Transportation shall submit the findings of the study to the Joint Legislative Transportation
24 Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division by January 31, 2023.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective December 1, 2022, and applies
26 to infractions committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it
27 becomes law.



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