

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 1169
Apr 30, 2026
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10566-NEa-118

Short Title: Prohibit Driving with Animal in Lap.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE SAFETY ON THE ROADS BY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION
3 OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE THE DRIVER IS HOLDING A LIVE ANIMAL IN THE
4 PERSON'S LAP.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Part 10 of Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended
7 by adding a new section to read:

8 "**§ 20-140.6. Unlawful to operate motor vehicle while holding live animal in lap.**

9 (a) Offense. – It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a vehicle on a public street,
10 highway, or public vehicular area while holding a live animal in the person's lap.

11 (b) Penalty. – A violation of this section shall be an infraction and shall be punishable by
12 a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and the costs of court.

13 (c) Points. – No drivers license points or insurance surcharge shall be assessed as a result
14 of a violation of this section.

15 (d) Negligence. – Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall not constitute
16 negligence per se or contributory negligence per se by the operator in any action for the recovery
17 of damages arising out of the operation, ownership, or maintenance of a vehicle."

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
19 Transportation the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
20 2026-2027 fiscal year to be used to conduct a public awareness campaign regarding the
21 requirements of this act.

22 SECTION 3. Section 2 of this act is effective July 1, 2026. The remainder of this act
23 becomes effective December 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

