

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

SESSION LAW 2011-119
SENATE BILL 16

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUEST A BLOOD SAMPLE UNDER THE STATE IMPLIED-CONSENT LAWS FROM ANY PERSON CRIMINALLY CHARGED IN ANY CASE INVOLVING DEATH BY VEHICLE AND CERTAIN OTHER OFFENSES AND TO SEEK A WARRANT IF THE DRIVER REFUSES AND THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THE OFFENSE INVOLVED IMPAIRED DRIVING OR IS ALCOHOL-RELATED.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-16.2(a1) reads as rewritten:

"(a1) Meaning of Terms. – Under this section, an "implied-consent offense" is an offense involving impaired ~~driving~~ driving, a violation of G.S. 20-141.4(a2), or an alcohol-related offense made subject to the procedures of this section. A person is "charged" with an offense if the person is arrested for it or if criminal process for the offense has been issued."

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-139.1(b5) reads as rewritten:

"(b5) Subsequent Tests Allowed. – A person may be requested, pursuant to G.S. 20-16.2, to submit to a chemical analysis of the person's blood or other bodily fluid or substance in addition to or in lieu of a chemical analysis of the breath, in the discretion of a law enforcement ~~officer~~ officer; except that a person charged with a violation of G.S. 20-141.4 shall be requested to provide a blood sample in addition to or in lieu of a chemical analysis of the breath. However, if a breath sample shows an alcohol concentration of .08 or more, then requesting a blood sample shall be in the discretion of a law enforcement officer. If a subsequent chemical analysis is requested pursuant to this subsection, the person shall again be advised of the implied consent rights in accordance with G.S. 20-16.2(a). A person's willful refusal to submit to a chemical analysis of the blood or other bodily fluid or substance is a willful refusal under G.S. 20-16.2. If a person willfully refuses to provide a blood sample under this subsection, and the person is charged with a violation of G.S. 20-141.4, then a law enforcement officer with probable cause to believe that the offense involved impaired driving or was an alcohol-related offense made subject to the procedures of G.S. 20-16.2 shall seek a warrant to obtain a blood sample. The failure to obtain a blood sample pursuant to this subsection shall not be grounds for the dismissal of a charge and is not an appealable issue."

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective December 1, 2011, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 8th day of June, 2011.

s/ Walter H. Dalton
President of the Senate

s/ Thom Tillis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
Governor

Approved 9:16 a.m. this 13th day of June, 2011

