

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 182  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/20/17  
Third Edition Engrossed 6/27/17

Short Title: Prohibit Use of Light Bars on Motor Vehicles.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 7, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF LIGHT BAR LIGHTING DEVICES ON A MOTOR  
3 VEHICLE WHILE THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS BEING DRIVEN ON THE HIGHWAYS  
4 OF THIS STATE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-130 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 20-130. **Additional permissible light on vehicle.**

8 (a) Spot Lamps. – Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two spot  
9 lamps, except that a motorcycle shall not be equipped with more than one spot lamp, and every  
10 lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of  
11 the beam will be directed to the left of the center of the highway nor more than 100 feet ahead  
12 of the vehicle. No spot lamps shall be used on the rear of any vehicle. For purposes of this  
13 section, the term "motorcycle" shall not include autocycles. Autocycles shall be subject to the  
14 requirements under this section for motor vehicles.

15 (b) Auxiliary Driving Lamps. – Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed  
16 two auxiliary driving lamps mounted on the front, and every such auxiliary driving lamp or  
17 lamps shall meet the requirements and limitations set forth in G.S. 20-131, subsection (c).

18 (c) Restrictions on Lamps. – Any device, other than headlamps, spot lamps, or auxiliary  
19 driving lamps, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 25 candlepower, shall  
20 be so directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the surface on which the vehicle  
21 stands at a distance of more than 50 feet from the vehicle.

22 (d) Electronically Modulated Headlamps. – Nothing contained in this Chapter shall  
23 prohibit the use of electronically modulated headlamps on motorcycles, law-enforcement and  
24 fire department vehicles, county fire marshals and Emergency Management coordinators,  
25 public and private ambulances, and rescue squad emergency service vehicles, provided such  
26 headlamps and light modulator are of a type or kind which have been approved by the  
27 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

28 (e) High Mounted Flashing Deceleration Lamps. – Public transit vehicles may be  
29 equipped with amber, high mounted, flashing deceleration lamps on the rear of the vehicle.

30 (f) Light Bar Lighting Device. – Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the  
31 contrary, and excluding vehicles described in subsection (d) of this section, and excluding  
32 vehicles listed in G.S. 20-130.1(b), no person shall drive a motor vehicle on the highways of  
33 this State while using a light bar lighting device. This subsection does not apply to or otherwise  
34 restrict use of a light bar lighting device with strobing lights. For purposes of this subsection,  
35 the term "light bar lighting device" means a bar-shaped lighting device comprised of multiple



1 lamps capable of projecting a beam of light at an intensity greater than that set forth in  
2 subsection (c) of this section."

3           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017, and applies to offenses  
4 committed on or after that date.