

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**SENATE BILL 589**

Short Title: Prohibit Counterfeit/Nonfunctional Air Bags. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Gunn (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 4, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORT, MANUFACTURE, SALE, OFFER OF SALE,  
3 INSTALLATION, OR REINSTALLATION OF COUNTERFEIT AND  
4 NONFUNCTIONAL AIR BAGS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 20-4.01. Definitions.**

8 Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this  
9 Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

10 (1) Air bag. – A motor vehicle inflatable occupant restraint system device that is  
11 part of a supplemental restraint system.

12 ...

13 (4b) Counterfeit supplemental restraint system component. – A replacement  
14 supplemental restraint system component, including an air bag, that displays  
15 a mark identical to, or substantially similar to, the genuine mark of a motor  
16 vehicle manufacturer or a supplier of parts to the manufacturer of a motor  
17 vehicle, without authorization from the manufacturer or supplier.

18 ~~(4b)~~(4c) Crash. – Any event that results in injury or property damage attributable  
19 directly to the motion of a motor vehicle or its load. The terms collision,  
20 accident, and crash and their cognates are synonymous.

21 ...

22 (23a) Nonfunctional air bag. – A replacement air bag that meets any of the following  
23 criteria:

24 a. The air bag was previously deployed or damaged.

25 b. The air bag has an electric fault that is detected by the vehicle's air bag  
26 diagnostic systems when the installation procedure is completed and  
27 the vehicle is returned to the customer who requested the work to be  
28 performed or when ownership is intended to be transferred.

29 c. The air bag includes a part or object, including a supplemental restraint  
30 system component that is installed in a motor vehicle to mislead the  
31 owner or operator of the motor vehicle into believing that a functional  
32 air bag has been installed.

33 d. The air bag is subject to the prohibitions of 49 U.S.C. § 30120(j).

34 ...

35 (46a) Supplemental restraint system. – A passive inflatable motor vehicle occupant  
36 crash protection system designed for use in conjunction with a seat belt



1 assembly as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 571.209, and includes one or more air bags  
2 and all components required to ensure that an air bag works as designed by  
3 the vehicle manufacturer, including both of the following:

4 a. The air bag operates as designed in the event of a crash.

5 b. The air bag is designed in accordance with federal motor vehicle safety  
6 standards for the specific make, model, and year of the motor vehicle  
7 in which it is or will be installed.

8 ...."

9 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-71.4(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

10 "(3) Transfer a motor vehicle when the transferor has knowledge that a counterfeit  
11 supplemental restraint system, or a nonfunctional air bag, or no air bag has  
12 been installed in the vehicle."

13 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-136.2 reads as rewritten:

14 "**§ 20-136.2. Air bag installation. Counterfeit supplemental restraint system components**  
15 **and nonfunctional air bags.**

16 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to knowingly import,  
17 manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute, install or reinstall any object in lieu of an air bag,  
18 other than an air bag that was designed in accordance with federal safety regulations for the make,  
19 model, and year of vehicle, as part of a vehicle inflation restraint system. any device intended to  
20 replace a supplemental restraint system component in any motor vehicle if the device is a  
21 counterfeit supplemental restraint system component or nonfunctional air bag that causes a  
22 vehicle to fail to meet federal motor vehicle safety standards as provided in 49 C.F.R. § 571.208.  
23 Any person, firm, or corporation violating this section shall be guilty of a Class 4  
24 misdemeanor. Class H felony. A violation of this section shall constitute an unfair and deceptive  
25 trade practice under G.S. 75-1.1.

26 (b) Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit automotive dealers, repair professionals,  
27 recyclers, original equipment manufacturers, or contractors from disposing of counterfeit  
28 supplemental restraint system components or nonfunctional air bags in accordance with federal  
29 and State law."

30 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2019, and applies to offenses  
31 committed on or after that date.