

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH50254-MA-68 (1/30)

Short Title: Modify Penalty for Hit and Run/Serious Injury.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Moore.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT WHERE A PERSON SUFFERS SERIOUS BODILY INJURY A CLASS F FELONY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-166 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-166. **Duty to stop in event of ~~accident or collision~~ a crash; furnishing information or assistance to injured person, etc.; persons assisting exempt from civil liability.**

(a) The driver of any vehicle who knows or reasonably should know:

(1) That the vehicle which he or she is operating is involved in ~~an accident or collision~~ a crash; and

(2) That the ~~accident or collision~~ crash has resulted in serious bodily injury, as defined in G.S. 14-32.4, or death to any person;

shall immediately stop his or her vehicle at the scene of the ~~accident or collision~~ crash.

The driver shall remain with the vehicle at the scene of the ~~accident~~ crash until a law-enforcement officer completes the investigation of the ~~accident or collision~~ crash or authorizes the driver to leave and the vehicle to be removed, unless remaining at the scene places the driver or others at significant risk of injury.

Prior to the completion of the investigation of the ~~accident~~ crash by a law enforcement officer, or the consent of the officer to leave, the driver may not facilitate, allow, or agree to the removal of the vehicle from the scene for any purpose other than to call for a law enforcement officer, to call for medical assistance or medical treatment as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, or to remove oneself or others from significant risk of injury. If the driver does leave for a reason permitted by this subsection, then the driver must return with the vehicle to the accident scene within a reasonable period of time, unless otherwise instructed by a law enforcement officer. A willful violation of this subsection shall be punished as a Class ~~H-F~~ felony.

1 (a1) The driver of any vehicle who knows or reasonably should know:

2 (1) That the vehicle which he or she is operating is involved in a crash;
3 and

4 (2) That the crash has resulted in injury;

5 shall immediately stop his or her vehicle at the scene of the crash. The driver shall
6 remain with the vehicle at the scene of the crash until a law enforcement officer
7 completes the investigation of the crash or authorizes the driver to leave and the vehicle
8 to be removed, unless remaining at the scene places the driver or others at significant
9 risk of injury.

10 Prior to the completion of the investigation of the crash by a law enforcement
11 officer, or the consent of the officer to leave, the driver may not facilitate, allow, or
12 agree to the removal of the vehicle from the scene for any purpose other than to call for
13 a law enforcement officer, to call for medical assistance or medical treatment as set
14 forth in subsection (b) of this section, or to remove oneself or others from significant
15 risk of injury. If the driver does leave for a reason permitted by this subsection, then the
16 driver must return with the vehicle to the crash scene within a reasonable period of time,
17 unless otherwise instructed by a law enforcement officer. A willful violation of this
18 subsection shall be punished as a Class H felony.

19 (b) In addition to complying with the ~~requirement of subsection (a)~~ requirements
20 of subsections (a) and (a1) of this section, the driver as set forth in ~~subsection~~
21 ~~(a)~~ subsections (a) and (a1) shall give his or her name, address, driver's license number
22 and the license plate number of the vehicle to the person struck or the driver or
23 occupants of any vehicle collided with, provided that the person or persons are
24 physically and mentally capable of receiving such information, and shall render to any
25 person injured in such ~~accident or collision~~ crash reasonable assistance, including the
26 calling for medical assistance if it is apparent that such assistance is necessary or is
27 requested by the injured person. A violation of this subsection is a Class 1
28 misdemeanor.

29 (c) The driver of any vehicle, when ~~he or she~~ the driver knows or reasonably
30 should know that the vehicle which ~~he or she~~ the driver is operating is involved in ~~an~~
31 ~~accident or collision, which accident or collision, results:~~ a crash which results:

32 (1) Only in damage to property; or

33 (2) In injury or death to any person, but only if the operator of the vehicle
34 did not know and did not have reason to know of the death or injury;

35 shall immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the ~~accident or collision~~ crash. If the
36 ~~accident~~ crash is a reportable ~~accident~~ crash, the driver shall remain with the vehicle at
37 the scene of the ~~accident~~ crash until a law enforcement officer completes the
38 investigation of the ~~accident~~ crash or authorizes the driver to leave and the vehicle to be
39 removed, unless remaining at the scene places the driver or others at significant risk of
40 injury.

41 Prior to the completion of the investigation of the ~~accident~~ crash by a law
42 enforcement officer, or the consent of the officer to leave, the driver may not facilitate,
43 allow, or agree to the removal of the vehicle from the scene, for any purpose other than
44 to call for a law enforcement officer, to call for medical assistance or medical treatment,

1 or to remove oneself or others from significant risk of injury. If the driver does leave for
2 a reason permitted by this subsection, then the driver must return with the vehicle to the
3 accident scene within a reasonable period of time, unless otherwise instructed by a law
4 enforcement officer. A willful violation of this subsection is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

5 (c1) In addition to complying with the requirement of subsection (c) of this
6 section, the driver as set forth in subsection (c) shall give his or her name, address,
7 driver's license number and the license plate number of his vehicle to the driver or
8 occupants of any other vehicle involved in the ~~accident or collision~~crash or to any
9 person whose property is damaged in the ~~accident or collision~~crash. If the damaged
10 property is a parked and unattended vehicle and the name and location of the owner is
11 not known to or readily ascertainable by the driver of the responsible vehicle, the driver
12 shall furnish the information required by this subsection to the nearest available peace
13 officer, or, in the alternative, and provided the driver thereafter within 48 hours fully
14 complies with G.S. 20-166.1(c), shall immediately place a paper-writing containing the
15 information in a conspicuous place upon or in the damaged vehicle. If the damaged
16 property is a guardrail, utility pole, or other fixed object owned by the Department of
17 Transportation, a public utility, or other public service corporation to which report
18 cannot readily be made at the scene, it shall be sufficient if the responsible driver shall
19 furnish the information required to the nearest peace officer or make written report
20 thereof containing the information by U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested, to the
21 North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles within five days following the collision. A
22 violation of this subsection is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

23 (c2) Notwithstanding subsections ~~(a)~~(a), (a1), and (c) of this section, if ~~an accident~~
24 ~~or collision~~a crash occurs on a main lane, ramp, shoulder, median, or adjacent area of a
25 highway, each vehicle shall be moved as soon as possible out of the travel lane and onto
26 the shoulder or to a designated accident investigation site to complete the requirements
27 of this section and minimize interference with traffic if all of the following apply:

- 28 (1) The ~~accident or collision~~crash has not resulted in injury or death to any
29 person or the drivers did not know or have reason to know of any
30 injury or death.
- 31 (2) Each vehicle can be normally and safely driven. For purposes of this
32 subsection, a vehicle can be normally and safely driven if it does not
33 require towing and can be operated under its own power and in its
34 usual manner, without additional damage or hazard to the vehicle,
35 other traffic, or the roadway.

36 (d) Any person who renders first aid or emergency assistance at the scene of a
37 motor vehicle ~~accident~~crash on any street or highway to any person injured as a result
38 of the accident, shall not be liable in civil damages for any acts or omissions relating to
39 the services rendered, unless the acts or omissions amount to wanton conduct or
40 intentional wrongdoing.

41 (e) The Division of Motor Vehicles shall revoke the drivers license of a person
42 convicted of violating subsection ~~(a)~~or (a1) of this section for a period of one year,
43 unless the court makes a finding that a longer period of revocation is appropriate under
44 the circumstances of the case. If the court makes this finding, the Division of Motor

1 Vehicles shall revoke that person's drivers license for two years. Upon a first conviction
2 only for a violation of subsection ~~(a)~~(a1) of this section, a trial judge may allow limited
3 driving privileges in the manner set forth in G.S. 20-179.3(b)(2) during any period of
4 time during which the drivers license is revoked."

5 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2007, and applies to
6 offenses committed on or after that date.