

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 944

Short Title: Change Penalty for Hit and Run Violations.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Dalton.

Referred to: Judiciary II (Criminal).

March 20, 2007

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31           (1) Only in damage to property; or

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

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

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

1 a reason permitted by this subsection, then the driver must return with the vehicle to the  
2 accident scene within a reasonable period of time, unless otherwise instructed by a law  
3 enforcement officer. A willful violation of this subsection is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

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

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

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

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

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

1 only for a violation of subsection ~~(a)~~(a1) of this section, a trial judge may allow limited  
2 driving privileges in the manner set forth in G.S. 20-179.3(b)(2) during any period of  
3 time during which the drivers license is revoked."

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