

Transportation

See full summary documents for additional detail

H6 - Autocycle Definition and Regulation (SL 2015-163)

S.L. 2015-163 amends the motor vehicle laws of the State to define and regulate three-wheeled enclosed motorcycles, known as autocycles. The act provides that operators of autocycles only need a regular driver's license and do not have to wear a helmet.

This act became effective October 1, 2015.

H86 - Utility Line Relocation/School Board (SL 2015-111)

S.L. 2015-111 requires the Department of Transportation to pay the nonbetterment costs of moving water and sewer lines for a local board of education, when the lines are located in the right-of-way of a State transportation improvement project.

This act became effective July 1, 2015, and applies to relocations on or after that date.

H91 - Study Misuse of Handicapped Parking Placards (SL 2015-16)

S.L. 2015-16 requires the Division of Motor Vehicles to study ways to decrease the misuse of handicapped placards.

This act became effective May 14, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.14: Establishment of "DOT Report" Program (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.14 of S.L. 2015-241 does the following:

- Establishes the "DOT Report" Program (Program) that directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to: (i) respond to citizen reports in a more timely manner, including repairing potholes within two days of the date a report is received, addressing safety-related citizen reports no later than 10 days after the report is received, and addressing non-safety-related reports no later than 15 days after the report is received; (ii) conduct annual job satisfaction surveys of all DOT personnel; and (iii) conduct annual surveys of North Carolina citizens to measure the level of citizen satisfaction with the condition of the roads and highways of this State.
- Directs DOT to adopt procedures in all stages of the construction process to streamline project delivery, including the establishment of a baseline unit pricing structure by December 1, 2015, for transportation goods used in highway maintenance and construction projects and the setting of annual targets for three years based on its unit pricing.

- Directs DOT to, by May 1, 2016, reclassify the funding source to appropriation for all full-time positions that are budgeted as receipt-supported.
- Directs DOT to study and review the organization, staffing, and operations of the Division of Highways and submit the results of the study and review to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by May 1, 2016.
- Directs DOT to, by March 1, 2016, adjust the performance dashboard available on the Department's home page to track the monthly progress of certain projects.

This section became effective September 18, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.15: Study/Turnpike Authority Processing Fee (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.15 of S.L. 2015-241 directs the Department of Transportation to study whether the amount of the processing fee set forth by statute is in excess of the actual cost to collect and process unpaid open road tolls. The Department must report its findings to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by March 1, 2016.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.15A: Adjust Cap on Turnpike Projects (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.15A of S.L. 2015-241 (i) removes the limit on the number of turnpike projects the Turnpike Authority may study, plan, develop, and undertake preliminary design work on; (ii) increases the limit, from nine to eleven, on the number of turnpike projects the Authority may design, establish, purchase, construct, operate, and maintain; and (iii) specifies that the Triangle Expressway constitutes one project instead of three.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.17: Use of Funds for Pavement Preservation Program (SL 2015-241)

Section 29.17 of S.L. 2015-241 does the following:

- Amends the statutes that govern the pavement preservation program to (i) include asphalt crack sealing as an activity or treatment eligible for funding under program and (ii) direct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to spend or encumber all funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the Department for the program by June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated.
- Repeals the requirement that DOT treat a minimum amount of lane miles with eligible pavement preservation treatments and activities.

- Effective September 18, 2015, and applying to reports submitted on or after that date, decreases the threshold for when DOT must explain unit cost variance from 20% to 10%.

Except as otherwise provided, this section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.17D: Stabilization of Funding for State Aid to Municipalities (SL 2015-241)

Section 29.17D of S.L. 2015-241 does the following:

- Amends the statutes that pertain to allocation of funds to municipalities to base the State aid funding to municipalities on an appropriation from the General Assembly instead of a percentage of the tax imposed on motor fuels.
- Requires (i) the funds appropriated for State aid to municipalities to be used primarily for the resurfacing of streets within the corporate limits of the municipality and (ii) the Department of Transportation (DOT) to submit an annual report to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by October 1 of each year detailing the uses by each municipality of State aid received during the preceding year.
- Provides that, for the 2015-2016 fiscal year only, DOT may submit the required report by November 1, 2015, instead of October 1, 2015.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.17E: Study/Improving Safety on Secondary Roads (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.17E of S.L. 2015-241, as amended by Sec. 90.5 of S.L. 2015-264, does the following:

- Directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to study ways to improve safety and decrease the number of traffic accidents and fatalities occurring on secondary roads. DOT must report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee (Transportation Oversight Committee) by February 1, 2016.
- Directs DOT to conduct a survey of the paved and unpaved roads in this State that are open to the public, but not currently a part of the State system and report its findings by June 30, 2016.
- Directs DOT to use \$1 million in nonrecurring funds from the Secondary Unpaved Road Paving Program to establish a pilot program to improve paved or unpaved roads that are open to the public, but not currently a part of the State system. DOT must implement the pilot program by December 1, 2015, report the results of the pilot program to the Transportation Oversight Committee by December 1, 2016, and the pilot program will expire upon submission of the report.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.18: Report/Use of Coal Combustion Residuals (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.18 of S.L. 2015-241 directs the Utilities Commission to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, and the Environmental Review Commission, on the incremental cost incentives related to coal combustion residuals surface impoundments for investor-owned public utilities. The Utilities Commission must submit the report by January 15, 2016.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.20: Utility Relocation (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.20 of S.L. 2015-241 does the following:

- Increases the maximum population from 5,500 to 10,000 for municipalities in which the Department of Transportation must pay the nonbetterment cost for the relocation of water and sewer lines that are owned by the municipality and necessary to be relocated for a State transportation improvement project.
- Provides that municipalities with populations of greater than 10,000 must pay the following percentages of the nonbetterment cost for the relocation of water and sewer lines that are owned by the municipality and necessary to be relocated for a State transportation improvement project:
 - 25% of the cost with a population greater than 10,000, but less than 25,000.
 - 50% of the cost with a population of 25,000 or greater, but less than 50,000.
 - 100% of the cost with a population of 50,000 or greater.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to projects started on or after that date.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.23A: Use of Proceeds Generated from Shipyard (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.23A of S.L. 2015-241 amends the statutes that authorize the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish and maintain ferries to allow the North Carolina State Shipyard to use proceeds generated from activities at the Shipyard for improvements to the Shipyard. In addition, DOT may use a proportional amount of the proceeds credited to the various reserve accounts for each of the Highway Divisions to replace or repair equipment in the Shipyard if there is an insufficient amount of proceeds generated from activities at the Shipyard.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.30: Increase and Adjust Division of Motor Vehicles Fees (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.30 of S.L. 2015-241, as amended by Sec. 8.2 of S.L. 2015-268, does the following:

- Effective October 1, 2015, eliminates the transfer of funds from the Highway Fund to the General Fund for the operating expenses of the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Effective January 1, 2016, increases the amount of certain fees charged by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) by an average of 30%.
- Establishes a tiered late fee for persons who pay their motor vehicle registration fee late. This provision becomes effective July 1, 2016, applies to renewal motor vehicle registrations on or after that date, and expires December 31, 2017.
- Effective July 1, 2020, establishes an automatic quadrennial adjustment of certain fees charged by DMV that is based on inflation, as computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.30B: Distribution of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.30B of S.L. 2015-241 eliminates the transfer of (i) 33% of the funds in the Special Registration Account to the Department of Commerce for financing out-of-state print and other media advertising to promote travel and industrial development in this State and (ii) 17% of the funds in the Special Registration Account to the Department of Health and Human Services to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this State. This 50% of funds in the Special Registration Account is instead transferred to the Highway Fund to be used for the Roadside Vegetation Management Program.

This section became effective October 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.31: Enforcing Penalties for Lapse in Financial Responsibility (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.31 of S.L. 2015-241 adjusts the requirements that must be met for the Division of Motor Vehicles to impose a monetary penalty, revoke the registration of the person's motor vehicle, or both, for persons who have a lapse in financial responsibility or fail to pay a penalty or fee imposed for a lapse in financial responsibility. Effective September 18, 2015, this section also clarifies that there must be no penalty or revocation when the lapse in financial responsibility occurs after the person's death.

Except as otherwise provided, this section becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to lapses in financial responsibility occurring on or after that date.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.32: License Plate Agency Contract Standards (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.32 of S.L. 2015-241 does the following:

- Requires commission contracts entered into for the issuance of plates and certificates to specify the duration of the contract, which may not exceed eight years for initial contracts and two years for renewals. Commission contracts entered into prior to September 18, 2015, have until July 1, 2018, to comply with this requirement.
- Requires commission contracts to include or incorporate by reference standards by which the Division of Motor Vehicles may evaluate the performance of the commission contractor, and authorizes the Division to award monetary performance bonuses not exceeding an aggregate total of \$90,000 annually to commission contractors based on performance. Commission contracts entered into prior to September 18, 2015, have until July 1, 2018, to comply with the standards requirement.
- Increases the amount of compensation payable to a commission contractor on a per transaction basis.

The increase in compensation rates became effective July 1, 2015, and applies to transactions on or after that date. The remainder of the section became effective September 18, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.33: Division of Motor Vehicles/Umstead Act Clarification (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.33 of S.L. 2015-241 clarifies that the Umstead Act does not apply to the operation by the Division of Motor Vehicles of digital advertising and automated teller machines in the offices of the Division or contract license plate agencies.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.34: Highway Use Tax Clarification (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.34 of S.L. 2015-241 clarifies that the maximum tax for out-of-state vehicles only applies if the motor vehicle has been titled in the name of the owner of the motor vehicle in another state for at least 90 days prior to the date of application for a certificate of title in this State.

This section became effective September 18, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.34A: Adjust Maximum Highway Use Tax Imposed for Certain Motor Vehicles (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.34A of S.L. 2015-241, as amended by Sec. 10.1 of S.L. 2015-268, increases the maximum highway use tax imposed for certain motor vehicles as follows:

- Class A or Class B Commercial Motor Vehicles. From \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- Recreational Vehicle. From \$1,500 to \$2,000.
- Out-of-State Motor Vehicles. From \$150 to \$250.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to sales made on or after that date, or for purposes of alternate tax for those who rent or lease motor vehicles, a lease or rental agreement entered into on or after that date.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.35: Eliminate 10-Day Trip Permit and Increase Temporary Tag Fee (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.35 of S.L. 2015-241 eliminates the 10-day trip permit and instead authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a temporary license plate to a person which authorizes that person to drive for no more than 10 days a motor vehicle whose inspection authorization or registration has expired. In addition, this section increases the fee for a temporary license plate from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to temporary license plates issued on or after that date.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.40: Permanent Registration Plates (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.40(r) of S.L. 2015-241 reenacts G.S. 20-84(b)(3a), which authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue permanent registration plates to qualifying charter schools.

This subsection became effective September 18, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.41: Maximum Funding Expended for Light Rail Transit System Projects (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.41 of S.L. 2015-241 limits the cumulative amount of funds subject to the statutory transportation investment strategy formula that are expended for light rail transit system projects to the sum of \$500,000 per project.

This section became effective September 18, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.8: Department of Transportation/Outside Counsel (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.8 of S.L. 2015-241 expands the authority of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to engage the services of private outside counsel. DOT may obtain private outside counsel to provide legal services related to any project undertaken by the Department, and, except for legal services related to workers' compensation claims brought by DOT employees, must not be required to obtain written permission or approval from the Attorney General. DOT must develop performance metrics to evaluate its utilization of in-house and private outside counsel, and provide a semiannual report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Justice and Public Safety Oversight Committee on those performance metrics.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.9: Right-Of-Way Acquisitions/Reduce Remnant Property (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.9 of S.L. 2015-241 requires the Department of Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation, to develop a plan to reduce the amount of remnant property resulting from the acquisition of rights-of-way. The Departments must jointly report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by February 1, 2016, on the development of the plan, and the Department of Administration must implement the plan by July 1, 2016.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.10: Department of Transportation/Report on Capital Improvement Needs Estimate (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.10 of S.L. 2015-241 directs the Department of Transportation to provide a detailed report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on how the Department forms the six-year capital improvement needs estimate that is statutorily required of each State agency.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.11: Product Evaluation Program/Increase Innovation (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.11 of S.L. 2015-241 does all of the following:

- Effective September 18, 2015, requires the Board of Transportation to develop a plan to bring greater visibility and public awareness to the Product Evaluation Program, a unit within the Department of Transportation and directs the Board to (i) submit the plan to the chairs of the Joint

Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by December 1, 2015, and (ii) implement the plan by February 1, 2016.

- Creates a new law that requires the Product Evaluation Program to complete its evaluation of any technologies or products submitted for its review within one year from the date the technology or product was submitted. This provision becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to technologies and products submitted for review on or after that date.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.12: Various Reporting Changes (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.12 of S.L. 2015-241 adjusts the frequency and timing in which various reports must be submitted or published by the Turnpike Authority, the Board of Transportation, and the Department of Transportation.

This section became effective July 1, 2015.

H97 - 2015 Appropriations Act, Sec. 29.5: Require County or Municipality to Pay Costs Associated with Requested Project Improvements (SL 2015-241)

Sec. 29.5 of S.L. 2015-241 requires that pursuant to an agreement with the Department of Transportation, a county or municipality must reimburse the Department for the cost of all improvements requested by that county or municipality. Requests for safety enhancements or efforts to facilitate the flow of traffic are not considered improvements under this section unless the enhancement or effort is in excess of the standard required by law. Previously the law allowed a county or municipality to reimburse the Department but did not require it to do so.

This section became effective July 1, 2015, and applies to agreements entered into on or after that date.

H102 - Utility Vehicles/Move-Over Changes (SL 2015-26)

S.L. 2015-26 does the following:

- Authorizes utility vehicles, in addition to law enforcement officials, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel, to operate all-terrain vehicles on roads with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less.
- Authorizes all municipal and county employees to operate all-terrain vehicles and utility vehicles on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- Effective October 1, 2015, modifies the State "move over" law to include vehicles being used in the collection of refuse, solid waste, or recycling.

Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective May 21, 2015.

H148 - Insurance Required for Mopeds (SL 2015-125)

S.L. 2015-125, as amended by Sec. 42(a) and (b) of S.L. 2015-264, amends the law related to mopeds by:

- Requiring mopeds to be insured;
- Clarifying that sellers of mopeds are not required to be licensed as motor vehicle dealers; and
- Clarifying that mopeds do not have to be titled.

Clarifying changes related to motor vehicle dealer licensing and titling became effective July 1, 2015, to coincide with the effective date of the new moped registration requirement. The remainder of the act becomes effective July 1, 2016, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

H229 - Church Tax Exemption/Driving Privileges (SL 2015-185)

S.L. 2015-185 exempts religious buildings that are under construction from local property tax, effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2015.

The act also authorizes a judge to allow a person with a revoked driver's license to drive to attend religious worship under a limited driving privilege, effective October 1, 2015, and applies to limited driving privileges issued on or after October 1, 2015.

H232 - Study/Update Bicycle Safety Laws (SL 2015-45)

S.L. 2015-45 directs the Department of Transportation to convene a working group to study bicycle safety laws and recommend changes to better ensure the safety of cyclists and motorists. The Department must report its findings to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by December 31, 2015.

This act became effective June 2, 2015.

H268 - Amend Transportation Laws (SL 2015-231)

S.L. 2015-231 makes the following changes to State law:

- Amends the highway quick clearance procedures.
- Authorizes a single encroachment of a State road for a material conveyance system.
- Delays for two years, until August 31, 2017, the sunset on the Department of Transportation's program for participation by disadvantaged minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

This act became effective August 25, 2015.

H273 - Clarify Conditional Discharge Law/No Driving While Impaired Expunction (SL 2015-150)

S.L. 2015-150, as amended by Sec. 39 of S.L. 2015-264, clarifies that the provisions regarding deferred prosecution and conditional discharge for convictions of H and I felonies and misdemeanors under Structured Sentencing do not apply to convictions of impaired driving and that offenses involving impaired driving cannot be expunged.

The provision relating to deferred prosecution and conditional discharge became effective December 1, 2015, and applies to any order placing a person on probation on or after that date. The provisions pertaining to expunctions became effective July 1, 2015, and apply to petitions filed and pending on or after that date.

H350 - Restore Driving Privileges/Competency (SL 2015-165)

S.L. 2015-165 requires the Division of Motor Vehicles to restore a person's driving privilege upon notification from the clerk of court that the person has been adjudicated to be restored to competency.

This act became effective October 1, 2015.

H434 - Handicap Placard/Med. Recertification (SL 2015-29)

S.L. 2015-29 eliminates the requirement that a person provide a medical recertification that the person is handicapped when renewing a handicapped placard if the person is certified as totally and permanently disabled.

This act becomes effective July 1, 2016, except for a provision directing the Division of Motor Vehicles to develop forms to implement the act, which became effective May 21, 2015.

H529 - North Carolina Drivers License Restoration Act (SL 2015-186)

S.L. 2015-186, as amended by Sec. 86 of S.L. 2015-264, limits the imposition of an additional period of revocation upon a conviction of driving while license revoked (DWLR) and makes various conforming changes.

This act became effective December 1, 2015, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. Prosecutions for offenses prior to December 1, 2015 are not abated or affected.

H765 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2015, Secs. 3.5 and 3.13: Transportation Provisions (SL 2015-286)

Secs. 3.5 and 3.13 of S.L. 2015-286 make the following changes related to transportation:

- Provide for suitably reduced size registration plates for trailers attached to motorcycles. This provision becomes effective January 1, 2016.
- Conform the law related to operation of all-terrain vehicles by persons less than 16 years of age to national safety and design standards for youth operators. These provisions became effective October 22, 2015.

H800 - Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealer Laws (SL 2015-209)

S.L. 2015-209 makes changes to North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Dealers and Manufacturers Licensing Law.

This act became effective August 11, 2015, and applies to all current and future agreements between new motor vehicle dealers and manufacturers or distributors.

H924 - Highway Safety/Other Changes, Secs. 1 and 2 (SL 2015-276)

Secs. 1 and 2 of S.L. 2015-276 do the following:

- Clarifies when a law enforcement officer is required to request a blood sample when charging the offense of misdemeanor death by vehicle.
- Clarifies the law governing prohibited use of red and blue lights.

These sections became effective December 1, 2015, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

S20 - Internal Revenue Code Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes (SL 2015-2)

S.L. 2015-2 consists of two Parts. The first Part, which was a recommendation of the Revenue Laws Study Committee, updates from December 31, 2013, to January 1, 2015, the reference to the Internal Revenue Code used in determining certain State tax provisions. The act decouples from the extensions listed below under the federal Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 for the 2014 tax year, but it conforms to the \$250 teacher expense deduction . Enhanced Section 179 expensing

- Exclusion from income for forgiveness of debt on principal residence.
- Deduction for mortgage insurance premiums.
- Deduction for higher education tuition expenses.
- Tax-free distribution from IRAs to public charities.

This Part became effective March 31, 2015.

The second Part of the act makes the following changes to the motor fuels tax:

- Reduces the motor fuels tax rate from 37.5 cents to 36 cents beginning April 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. It sets the rate at 35 cents per gallon (cpg) from January 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016, and at 34 cpg from July 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.
- Changes the variable component of the formula for determining the rate. Beginning January 1, 2017, the rate will be 34 cpg multiplied by a percentage reflecting population change and the annual change in the Energy component of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers as produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Replaces the two 6-month base periods used in determining the gas tax rate with a single 12-month base period.
- Makes \$3.35 million and \$10.1 million reductions in the Highway Trust Fund and Highway Fund budgets for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The motor fuels tax rate changes are effective as described above. The remainder of this Part became effective March 31, 2015.

S43 - Commercial Drivers Licenses for Veterans Revisions (SL 2015-115)

S.L. 2015-115 amends the skills test waiver for CDL applicants with military experience by:

- Expanding the time period allowed between a retired or discharged applicant being regularly employed in a qualified position and the date of application for the CDL from 90 days to one year; and
- Providing an additional method of certification of eligibility for the waiver (besides certification by a commanding officer) by allowing the applicant to provide a Form DD 214 and a military-issued drivers license.

This act became effective June 24, 2015.

S90 - Required Number of Operating Brake Lights (SL 2015-31)

S.L. 2015-31, as amended by Sec. 29.36B of S.L. 2015-241, clarifies State law to require motor vehicles manufactured on or after December 31, 1970, to have two operable stop lamps.

This act became effective October 1, 2015, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

S116 - Handicapped Parking Windshield Placard (SL 2015-22)

S.L. 2015-22 provides that when a qualifying vehicle owner is issued a handicapped license plate, the applicant must be notified that he or she is also eligible for and may receive a windshield placard at that time.

This act became effective July 1, 2015, and applies to applications for plates received on or after that date.

S119 - GSC Technical Corrections 2015, Sec. 73: Clarify Cochair of Virginia-North Carolina High-Speed Rail Commission (SL 2015-264)

Sec. 73 of S.L. 2015-264 authorizes co-chairs, one from each State, for the existing Virginia-North Carolina High-Speed Rail Compact Commission.

This section became effective October 1, 2015.

S119 - GSC Technical Corrections 2015, Secs. 40 and 41: Transportation-Related Provisions (SL 2015-264)

Secs. 40 and 41 S.L. 2015-264 made the following changes related to Transportation:

- Delays mandatory participation date for electronic lien system.
- Exempts snow plows participating in Department of Transportation snow plowing operations from over width permit requirements.

These sections became effective October 1, 2015.

S182 - Automatic License Plate Readers (SL 2015-190)

S.L. 2015-190 regulates the use by law enforcement agencies of automatic license plate reader systems. Please see the full summary for more detail.

This act became effective December 1, 2015.

S195 - Motor Vehicle Service Agreement Amendments (SL 2015-283)

S.L. 2015-283 does the following:

- Defines ancillary anti-theft protection program and ancillary anti-theft protection program warranty.
- Clarifies what is included in motor vehicle service agreements.
- Clarifies that ancillary anti-theft protection programs and warranties and motor vehicle service agreements are not contracts of insurance.
- Makes conforming changes to related statutes.

This act became effective October 1, 2015.

S299 - Port Usage Contracts/Public Records (SL 2015-142)

S.L. 2015-142 provides that State Ports Authority usage contracts are not public records.

This act became effective July 8, 2015.

S301 - Department of Transportation/Purchase of Contaminated Land (SL 2015-106)

S.L. 2015-106 exempts the Department of Transportation from the State law requirement for approval by the Governor and Council of State prior to purchase of contaminated property.

This act became effective June 24, 2015.

S304 - Administration of Logo Sign Program (SL 2015-239)

S.L. 2015-239 extends the Department of Transportation logo sign program to include partially controlled-access State roads.

This act became effective September 10, 2015.

S345 - Limit Storage Duration for Damaged Vehicle (SL 2015-188)

S.L. 2015-188 limits the period of time a vehicle can be impounded after a collision to 20 days unless a court order provides otherwise.

This act became effective August 1, 2015, and applies to motor vehicles impounded on or after that date.

S370 - E-Signatures/Vehicle Title and Registration (SL 2015-270)

S.L. 2015-270 does the following:

- Allows use of electronic signatures on Division of Motor Vehicles applications for titles and registration.
- Provides for electronic notice to Division of Motor Vehicles of satisfaction of a security interest through the new electronic lien system.

The electronic signature provision becomes effective August 1, 2016. The electronic notice provision became effective December 1, 2015.

S446 - Dealership Loaners/Unmanned Aircraft/Brunswick Co., Part I: Franchised Dealer Loaner Vehicles (SL 2015-232)

Part I of S.L. 2015-232, as amended by Sec. 42 of S.L. 2015-264, authorizes licensing of franchised dealer loaner vehicles.

This part has varying effective dates; see the full summary for details.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 7: Amend Definition of "Agricultural Spreader Vehicle" and Increase Speed Limit for Agricultural Spreader Vehicles (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 7 of S.L. 2015-263 amends the definition of "agricultural spreader vehicle" to include vehicles designed for off-highway use on a farm to spread feed, and allow agricultural spreader vehicles that are exempt from the requirement of registration and certificate of title to travel at a speed of up to 45 miles per hour, increased from 35 miles per hour.

This section became effective September 30, 2015.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 8: Allow All Terrain Vehicles and Utility Vehicles Used for Agricultural Purposes to Operate on Public Roads (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 8 of S.L. 2015-263 allows any person to operate an all-terrain vehicle or utility vehicle on a public street or highway when engaged in farming operations.

This section became effective September 30, 2015.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 9: Clarify the Road Weight Limitation Exceptions for Transportation of Agricultural Products and Supplies (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 9 of S.L. 2015-263 clarifies that the weight limitation exceptions for transportation of agricultural products and supplies apply to vehicles carrying dairy products; transportation of agricultural products and supplies from a holding facility or to a feed mill; vehicles carrying water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste to or from a farm; and vehicles carrying feed ingredients from a storage or holding facility to a mill or farm.

This section became effective October 1, 2015.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 10: Establish Marking and Notice Requirements for Meteorological Towers (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 10 of S.L. 2015-263 requires meteorological towers between 50 and 200 feet high to be marked and painted such that they are visible during daylight hours from a distance of at least 2,000 feet. The towers must be painted in alternating bands of orange and white, have a marker ball attached to the top third of each guy wire, and have a seven-foot long safety sleeve at each anchor point. Any person constructing a meteorological tower must also register with the Department of Transportation (DOT), provide the location and height of the proposed tower, and pay a \$350 registration fee. DOT must develop and maintain a database of these towers by January 1, 2017, and make the database available on its Web site. The Secretary of Transportation may assess a \$10,000 penalty against any person who violates either the marking or notice requirements. Towers existing on January 1, 2017, are grandfathered and not subject to the requirements of this section.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2017, and applies to meteorological towers erected on or after that date.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 4: Modify Oversize Vehicle Permit Time Restrictions (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 4 of S.L. 2015-263 directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to amend its rules to allow permitted oversize vehicles to operate between sunset and sunrise, Monday through Sunday of each week. Previously, DOT rules did not permit oversize vehicles to operate on Sundays. Additionally, this section directs DOT to amend its rules to remove Labor Day, Memorial Day, and New Year's Day from the list of holidays during which an oversize vehicle may not operate from noon on the weekday preceding the holiday until noon of the weekday after the holiday.

This section became effective September 30, 2015.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 5: Allow Oversize Transportation of Hay Bales (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 5 of S.L. 2015-263 provides that any vehicle carrying baled hay from place to place on the same farm, from one farm to another, from farm to market, or from market to farm, that does not exceed 12 feet in width may be operated on the highways of this State. Such vehicles exceeding 10 feet in width must operate only during daylight hours and must display a red flag or flashing warning light in the front and rear of the vehicle.

This section became effective September 30, 2015.

S513 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 6: Amend Right-of-Center Requirements for Certain Agricultural Vehicles (SL 2015-263)

Sec. 6 of S.L. 2015-263 amends the right of center requirements to provide that farm equipment is not required to operate to the right of the center line when the combined width of the traveling lane and the accessible shoulder is less than the width of the equipment.

This section became effective September 30, 2015.

S541 - Regulate Transportation Network Companies (SL 2015-237)

S.L. 2015-237 regulates transportation network companies (TNC) by requiring a State permit to operate, maintenance of liability insurance for cars, and background checks for drivers. The act imposes a \$5,000 application fee for the permit and a \$5,000 renewal fee. The act adds vehicles operated in a TNC service to the list of vehicles that can transport persons for compensation without a for-hire license plate.

This act became effective October 1, 2015.

S581 - Study Subdivision Streets/Traffic Calming Devices (SL 2015-217)

S.L. 2015-217 directs the Department of Transportation to study the process and requirements for the Department to accept subdivision streets into the State highway system for maintenance and report its findings by February 1, 2016. The act also amends a provision allowing certain subdivisions to install traffic calming devices by lowering the percentage of property owners needed to approve a device.

This act became effective August 18, 2015.

S621 - Registration Renewal Notice/E-Mail (SL 2015-108)

S.L. 2015-108 authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to send the required combined vehicle property tax and State registration notice by e-mail, subject to the written consent of the owner of a vehicle.

This act becomes effective January 1, 2016.

S654 - Map Act/Clarifications (SL 2015-151)

S.L. 2015-151 requires the Department of Transportation to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and its members for any claims arising out of its adoption, filing, or amendment of a corridor map; and makes conforming changes.

The indemnification language added by this act became effective July 16, 2015, and applies to maps filed, adopted, or amended before that date. The remainder of this act became effective July 16, 2015, and applies to maps filed, adopted, or amended before, on, or after that date.