

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

SENATE BILL 345  
RATIFIED BILL

AN ACT TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TIME A MOTOR VEHICLE CAN BE IMPOUNDED AFTER A COLLISION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 20-166.3. Limit storage duration for vehicle damaged as a result of a collision.**

(a) Limited Duration of Storage. – A motor vehicle that is towed and stored at the direction of a law enforcement agency following a collision may be held for evidence for not more than 20 days without a court order. Absent a court order, the vehicle must be released to the vehicle owner, insurer, or lien holder upon payment of the towing and storage fees.

(b) Application. – This section shall not apply to a motor vehicle (i) seized as a result of a violation of law or (ii) abandoned by the owner."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective August 1, 2015, and applies to motor vehicles impounded on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

s/ Philip E. Berger  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Paul Stam  
Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives

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Pat McCrory  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ .m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

