

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 692

Short Title: Restrict Certain Vehicle Modifications. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives B. Jones, Bell, Saine, and Hardister (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 28, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO PASSENGER VEHICLES
3 OPERATING ON HIGHWAYS OR PUBLIC VEHICULAR AREAS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-135.4 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 20-135.4. Certain automobile safety standards.

7 (a) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the term "private passenger
8 automobile" ~~shall mean means~~ a four-wheeled motor vehicle designed principally for carrying
9 passengers, for use ~~passengers~~ on public roads and highways, ~~except a multipurpose passenger~~
10 ~~vehicle which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional~~
11 ~~off-road operation.~~highways.

12 (b), (c) Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 856.

13 (d) ~~The manufacturer's specified height of any passenger motor vehicle shall not be~~
14 ~~elevated or lowered, either in front or back, more than six inches by modification, alteration, or~~
15 ~~change of the physical structure of said vehicle without prior written approval of the~~
16 ~~Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. On or after January 1, 1975, no self-propelled passenger~~
17 ~~vehicle that has been so altered, modified or changed~~ Prohibited Modifications. – A private
18 passenger automobile shall not be modified or altered by (i) elevating the automobile more than
19 3 inches from the manufacturer's specified height in the front and (ii) lowering the automobile
20 more than 2 inches from the manufacturer's specified height in the rear. A private passenger
21 automobile modified or altered in violation of this subsection shall not be operated upon any
22 highway or public vehicular area ~~without the prior written approval of the Commissioner.~~area.
23 Any person operating a private passenger automobile in violation of this subsection shall be
24 guilty of an infraction and punished in accordance with G.S. 20-176."

25 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-17 reads as rewritten:

26 "§ 20-17. Mandatory revocation of license by Division.

27 (a) The Division shall forthwith revoke the license of any driver upon receiving a record
28 of the driver's conviction for any of the following offenses:

29 ...

30 (17) A third or subsequent conviction of operating a private passenger automobile
31 with prohibited modifications on any highway or public vehicular area under
32 G.S. 20-135.4(d). A conviction for violating G.S. 20-135.4(d) is a third or
33 subsequent conviction if at the time of the current infraction the person has
34 two or more previous convictions under G.S. 20-135.4 that occurred in the 12
35 months immediately preceding the date of the current infraction.



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2 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-19 reads as rewritten:

3 "**§ 20-19. Period of suspension or revocation; conditions of restoration.**

4 ...

5 (c2a) When a license is suspended under G.S. 20-17(a)(17), the period of revocation shall
6 be not less than one year.

7 "

8 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to offenses
9 committed on or after that date.