

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 138

Short Title: Failure to Yield to Blind Pedestrians/Penalty. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Morey, Setzer, Shepard, and Carney (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 20, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A BLIND
3 OR PARTIALLY BLIND PEDESTRIAN UNDER G.S. 20-175.2 IS A CLASS 2
4 MISDEMEANOR.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-175.2 reads as rewritten:
7 "**§ 20-175.2. Right-of-way at crossings, intersections and traffic-control signal points; white**
8 **cane or guide dog to serve as signal for the blind.**

9 At any street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is not
10 regulated by a traffic officer or by traffic-control signals, any blind or partially blind pedestrian
11 shall be entitled to the right-of-way at such crossing or intersection, if such blind or partially
12 blind pedestrian shall extend before him at arm's length a cane white in color or white tipped with
13 red, or if such person is accompanied by a guide dog. Upon receiving such a signal, all vehicles
14 at or approaching such intersection or crossing shall come to a full stop, leaving a clear lane
15 through which such pedestrian may pass, and such vehicle shall remain stationary until such blind
16 or partially blind pedestrian has completed the passage of such crossing or intersection. At any
17 street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is regulated by
18 traffic-control signals, blind or partially blind pedestrians shall be entitled to the right-of-way if
19 such person having such cane or accompanied by a guide dog shall be partly across such crossing
20 or intersection at the time the traffic-control signals change, and all vehicles shall stop and remain
21 stationary until such pedestrian has completed passage across the intersection or crossing. Any
22 person who fails to yield the right-of-way to a blind or partially blind pedestrian as required by
23 this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

24 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses
25 committed on or after that date.



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