

March 4, 1999

H 247. FUNERAL PROCESSIONS. TO REGULATE FUNERAL PROCESSIONS AND TO CODIFY THE RULES OF THE ROAD WITH REGARD TO FUNERAL PROCESSIONS. Adds new GS 20-157.1 as title indicates. Requires that each vehicle in funeral procession must be operated with its headlights on. Provides that operator of lead vehicle in funeral procession must comply with all traffic-control signals, but when lead vehicle has progressed across intersection in accordance with traffic-control sign or signal, or when directed to do so by law enforcement officer, or as otherwise provided by law, all vehicles in procession may proceed through intersection without stopping, except that operator of each vehicle must exercise reasonable care toward any other vehicle or pedestrian. Operator of vehicle proceeding in same direction of procession may not pass or attempt to pass procession except when highway has been marked for two or more lanes of moving traffic in direction of procession. Operator of vehicle may not knowingly drive between vehicles in procession by crossing their path unless directed to do so by person authorized to direct traffic. Violation of section does not constitute negligence per se. Provides that liability for death, personal injury, or property damage suffered by person participating in funeral procession or colliding with vehicle in procession may not be imposed on operator of law enforcement vehicle escorting or assisting procession, funeral director or funeral establishment or their employees or agents, unless death, personal injury, or property damage was proximately caused by negligent or intentional act of person, firm, or corporation. Provides that to extent that local ordinance is in direct conflict with any part of section, ordinance shall control over conflicting part. Effective Dec. 1, 1999.

Intro. by Wainwright.

Ref. to Transportation

GS 20

April 5, 1999

H 247. FUNERAL PROCESSIONS. Intro. 3/4/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Permits vehicles designated as official to lead a funeral procession. Requires each vehicle in the procession to either have the headlights or hazard lights illuminated. Deletes provision exempting vehicles in funeral processions from any requirement that a motor vehicle following another be operated to allow sufficient space to enable another vehicle to enter and occupy that space without danger. Deletes provision for liability for intentional acts. Makes other conforming changes.

April 14, 1999

H 247. FUNERAL PROCESSIONS. Intro. 3/4/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Modifies definition of lead vehicle in a funeral procession to include in definition another vehicle designated by a law enforcement officer or the funeral director (was, other designated official vehicle), and to change two references from "official designee" to "designee of a law enforcement officer or the funeral director." Adds provision specifying that a violation of funeral procession statute is not to be considered a moving violation for purposes of GS 58-36-65 or 58-36-75 (insurance rates).

July 12, 1999

H 247. FUNERAL PROCESSIONS. Intro. 3/4/99. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Deletes subsection that provided civil immunity for law enforcement personnel and funeral directors for personal injury or property damage resulting from collisions with vehicles in funeral processions except when proximately caused by negligent act of such persons.