

February 6, 2007

H 90. SECRET COMPARTMENTS IN MOTOR VEHICLES. Filed 2/6/07. TO MAKE FALSE, hidden, or secret compartments in a vehicle unlawful and to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars to the department of crime control and public safety for grants to local law enforcement agencies to help offset the cost of enforcing this act. Amends Article 5 (North Carolina Controlled Substances Act) of GS Chapter 90 to create a new GS 90-108.1 (Vehicles with false, hidden, or secret compartments) making it a Class I felony to (1) own or operate a vehicle known to contain a false, hidden, or secret compartment; (2) install, create, build, or fabricate a false, hidden, or secret compartment; or (3) sell, trade, or dispose of a vehicle the person knows contains a false, hidden, or secret compartment. Defines false, hidden, or secret compartments as enclosures attached to a vehicle intended or designed to conceal, hide, or prevent law enforcement officers from discovering the compartment or its contents. Once a person is arrested for one of the above violations, the car's plate and registration card will be seized; the owner may apply to the Division of Motor Vehicles for a temporary plate, valid for 30 days or until the vehicle has been inspected and it is determined that the vehicle has been repaired to remove any violations, at which time the plate and registration will be returned to the owner. Provides that the intent to use a false, hidden, or secret compartment to conceal the contents from a law enforcement officer may be inferred from the discovery of any of the following: a concealed person, a controlled substance if possession is classified as a Class 1 misdemeanor or higher, or contraband if possession is classified as a Class 1 misdemeanor or higher. Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies to offset enforcement costs. Effective for offenses committed on or after December 1, 2007.

Intro. by Moore.

GS 90, APPROP