

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

S

D

**SENATE BILL 493
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S493-PCS85215-SU-20**

Short Title: Prohibit Aftermarket HID Headlights.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 28, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITH CERTAIN
HEADLAMPS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-131 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-131. Requirements as to headlamps and auxiliary driving lamps.

(a) The headlamps of motor vehicles shall be so constructed, arranged, and adjusted that, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, they will at all times mentioned in G.S. 20-129, and under normal atmospheric conditions and on a level road, produce a driving light sufficient to render clearly discernible a person 200 feet ahead, but any person operating a motor vehicle upon the highways, when meeting another vehicle, shall so control the lights of the vehicle operated by him by shifting, depressing, deflecting, tilting, or dimming the headlight beams in such manner as shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons within a distance of 500 feet in front of such headlamp. Every new motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, registered in this State after January 1, 1956, which has multiple-beam road-lighting equipment shall be equipped with a beam indicator, which shall be lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the headlamps is in use, and shall not otherwise be lighted. Said indicator shall be so designed and located that when lighted it will be readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle so equipped.

(b) Headlamps shall be deemed to comply with the foregoing provisions prohibiting glaring and dazzling lights if none of the main bright portion of the headlamp beams rises above a horizontal plane passing through the lamp centers parallel to the level road upon which the loaded vehicle stands, and in no case higher than 42 inches, 75 feet ahead of the vehicle.

(b1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle that is equipped with any headlamps that (i) change the original design or performance of the headlamps and (ii) do not comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, as adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of an infraction punishable by a penalty of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

(c) Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated upon a highway, or portion thereof, which is sufficiently lighted to reveal a person on the highway at a distance of 200 feet ahead of the vehicle, it shall be permissible to dim the headlamps or to tilt the beams downward or to substitute therefor the light from an auxiliary driving lamp or pair of such lamps, subject to the restrictions as to tilted beams and auxiliary driving lamps set forth in this section.

(d) Whenever a motor vehicle meets another vehicle on any highway it shall be permissible to tilt the beams of the headlamps downward or to substitute therefor the light from an auxiliary driving lamp or pair of such lamps subject to the requirement that the tilted



* S 4 9 3 - P C S 8 5 2 1 5 - S U - 2 0 *

1 headlamps or auxiliary lamp or lamps shall give sufficient illumination under normal
2 atmospheric conditions and on a level road to render clearly discernible a person 75 feet ahead,
3 but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons in front of the vehicle: Provided, that
4 at all times required in G.S. 20-129 at least two lights shall be displayed on the front of and on
5 opposite sides of every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, road roller, road machinery, or
6 farm tractor.

7 (e) No city or town shall enact an ordinance in conflict with this section."

8 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-183.3(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

9 "(a) Safety. – A safety inspection of a motor vehicle consists of an inspection of the
10 following equipment to determine if the vehicle has the equipment required by Part 9 of Article
11 3 of this Chapter and if the equipment is in a safe operating condition:

12 ...
13 (2) Lights, as required by G.S. 20-129 or G.S. 20-129.1. To determine if a
14 vehicle's headlamps are in a safe operating condition that complies with the
15 lighting restrictions in G.S. 20-131, a safety inspection mechanic must first
16 determine if aftermarket headlamps are installed. If aftermarket headlamps
17 have been installed, the mechanic must inspect the headlamps to verify the
18 headlamps are marked "DOT", indicating compliance with the Federal
19 Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, as adopted by the National
20 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

21"

22 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2013, and applies to
23 offenses committed on or after that date.