

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 378  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S378-PCS15237-TJ-25

Short Title: Increase Punishment/Misd. Death by Vehicle.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 25, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES OF  
3 MISDEMEANOR DEATH BY VEHICLE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-141.4 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 20-141.4. Felony and misdemeanor death by vehicle; felony serious injury by vehicle;**  
7 **aggravated offenses; repeat felony death by vehicle.**

8 ...

9 (a4) Aggravated Misdemeanor Death by Vehicle. – A person commits the offense of  
10 aggravated misdemeanor death by vehicle if:

11 (1) The person unintentionally causes the death of another person;

12 (2) The person was engaged in the violation of any State law applying to the  
13 operation or use of a vehicle or to the regulation of traffic, other than the  
14 following:

15 a. Impaired driving under G.S. 20-138.1 or G.S. 20-138.2;

16 b. Improper equipment under G.S. 20-141(o)(1);

17 c. A financial responsibility requirement under G.S. 20-311;

18 d. A registration requirement under G.S. 20-111; or

19 e. No operator's license under G.S. 20-7.

20 (3) The commission of the offense in subdivision (2) of this subsection is the  
21 proximate cause of the death; and

22 (4) Within seven years of the date of the offense, the person has three or more  
23 previous convictions for a violation of any State law or local law applying to  
24 the operation or use of a vehicle or to the regulation of traffic, other than the  
25 following:

26 a. Impaired driving under G.S. 20-138.1 or G.S. 20-138.2;

27 b. Improper equipment under G.S. 20-141(o)(1);

28 c. A financial responsibility requirement under G.S. 20-311;

29 d. A registration requirement under G.S. 20-111; or

30 e. No operator's license under G.S. 20-7.

31 ~~(a4)~~(a5) Aggravated Felony Serious Injury by Vehicle. – A person commits the offense  
32 of aggravated felony serious injury by vehicle if:

33 ...

34 ~~(a5)~~(a6) Aggravated Felony Death by Vehicle. – A person commits the offense of  
35 aggravated felony death by vehicle if:

36 ...



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1        ~~(a6)~~(a7) Repeat Felony Death by Vehicle Offender. – A person commits the offense of  
2 repeat felony death by vehicle if:

3            (1) The person commits an offense under subsection (a1) or subsection ~~(a5)~~(a6)  
4 of this section; and

5            (2) The person has a previous conviction under:

6            a. Subsection (a1) of this section;

7            b. Subsection ~~(a5)~~(a6) of this section; or

8            c. G.S. 14-17 or G.S. 14-18, and the basis of the conviction was the  
9 unintentional death of another person while engaged in the offense of  
10 impaired driving under G.S. 20-138.1 or G.S. 20-138.2.

11            The pleading and proof of previous convictions shall be in  
12 accordance with the provisions of G.S. 15A-928.

13        (b) Punishments. – Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law  
14 providing greater punishment, the following classifications apply to the offenses set forth in  
15 this section:

16            ...

17            (5) Misdemeanor death by vehicle is a Class A1 misdemeanor.

18            (6) Aggravated misdemeanor death by vehicle is a Class A1 misdemeanor,  
19 provided that, notwithstanding G.S. 15A-1340.23(c), the court may impose  
20 an active or suspended sentence of up to 365 days, regardless of the  
21 defendant's prior conviction level. Nothing in this subdivision shall be  
22 construed as prohibiting a greater sentence if the conduct is prohibited by  
23 another provision of law providing for greater punishment.

24        ...."

25        **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-19(e) reads as rewritten:

26        "(e) When a person's license is revoked under (i) G.S. 20-17(a)(2) and the person has  
27 two or more previous offenses involving impaired driving for which the person has been  
28 convicted, and the most recent offense occurred within the five years immediately preceding  
29 the date of the offense for which the person's license is being revoked, (ii) G.S. 20-17(a)(2) and  
30 the person was sentenced pursuant to G.S. 20-179(f3) for the offense resulting in the  
31 revocation, or (iii) G.S. 20-17(a)(9) due to a violation of ~~G.S. 20-141.4(a4)~~, G.S. 20-141.4(a5),  
32 the revocation is permanent."

33        **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-141.4(a2)(2) reads as rewritten:

34        "(2) The person was engaged in the violation of any State law or local ordinance  
35 applying to the operation or use of a vehicle or to the regulation of traffic,  
36 other than impaired driving under ~~G.S. 20-138.1~~, G.S. 20-138.1 or  
37 G.S. 20-138.2, and"

38        **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-16.2(a1) reads as rewritten:

39        "(a1) Meaning of Terms. – Under this section, an "implied-consent offense" is an offense  
40 involving impaired driving, a violation of G.S. 20-141.4(a2), a violation of G.S. 20-141.4(a4),  
41 or an alcohol-related offense made subject to the procedures of this section. A person is  
42 "charged" with an offense if the person is arrested for it or if criminal process for the offense  
43 has been issued."

44        **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to  
45 offenses committed on or after that date.