

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

**H.B. 986**  
**May 18, 2022**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH10563-NEa-99

Short Title: Restrict Unrestrained Transportation of Dogs. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Martin.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT RESTRICTING THE TRANSPORTATION OF DOGS IN THE OPEN BED OR  
3 OPEN CARGO AREA OF A VEHICLE AND INSTRUCTING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON DOG SAFETY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-135.2B reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 20-135.2B. Transporting children under 16 years of age or dogs in open bed or open**  
8 **cargo area of a vehicle prohibited; exceptions.**

9 ...

10 (b1) The operator of a vehicle having an open bed or open cargo area shall ensure a dog is  
11 not transported in the bed or cargo area of that vehicle unless the dog is (i) under the physical  
12 control of a person other than the vehicle operator, (ii) humanely secured in a cage or other  
13 container, or (iii) humanely restrained by a harness manufactured for the purpose of restraining  
14 animals.

15 (c) Any person violating this section shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a  
16 penalty of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), even if more than one child less than 16  
17 years of age or dog is riding in the open bed or open cargo area of a vehicle. A person found  
18 responsible for a violation of this section may not be assessed court costs.

19 ...."

20 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of  
21 Transportation the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in nonrecurring funds for the  
22 2022-2023 fiscal year to study issues related to the safe transportation of dogs. The Department  
23 of Transportation shall submit the findings of the study to the Joint Legislative Transportation  
24 Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division by January 31, 2023.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective December 1, 2022, and applies  
26 to infractions committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it  
27 becomes law.



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