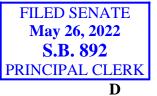
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2021



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SENATE BILL DRS55056-LM-150A

Short Title:	Durham/Civilian Traffic Investigators.	(Local)
Sponsors:	Senators Woodard and Murdock (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED				
2	AN ACT AUTHO	DRIZING THE CITY OF DURHAM TO EMPLOY AND ALLOW CIVILIAN				
3	PERSONNEL	L TO INVESTIGATE TRAFFIC CRASHES INVOLVING ONLY				
4	PROPERTY	DAMAGE.				
5		embly of North Carolina enacts:				
6	SECT	TON 1. Chapter VII of the Charter of the City of Durham, being Chapter 671				
7		on Laws, as amended, is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:				
8	"Sec. 128. Civilian Traffic Investigators. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the					
9	City may employ and allow civilian personnel to investigate traffic crashes. The civilian					
10	personnel shall be known as "Civilian Traffic Investigators."					
11		f the following shall apply to Civilian Traffic Investigators (hereinafter				
12						
13	<u>(1)</u>	The City shall establish the minimum standards for employment as an				
14		Investigator.				
15	<u>(2)</u>	Each Investigator shall attend a training program designed by the City of				
16		Durham Police Department in consultation with the North Carolina Justice				
17		Academy. Upon completion of the training program, each Investigator shall				
18		spend not less than four weeks of field training with a law enforcement officer				
19		who has experience conducting traffic crash investigations.				
20	<u>(3)</u>	Each Investigator shall be issued credentials by the City identifying the				
21		individual as a Civilian Traffic Investigator. The Investigator shall produce				
22		official credentials at any time when requested by a member of the public				
23		involved in or a witness to a crash.				
24	<u>(4)</u>	Investigators shall be issued a uniform that is substantially different in color				
25		and style from that of a law enforcement officer for the City. The uniform				
26 27		shall have patches that clearly identify the individual as an Investigator, and				
27		the individual's name shall be clearly displayed on the uniform. Investigators shall not be issued badges.				
28 29	(5)	Any vehicles issued to, or used by, an Investigator shall not bear markings or				
29 30	<u>(J)</u>	symbols that identify the vehicle as a police vehicle. The vehicle may have				
31		emergency equipment and lights installed but shall not use blue lights in any				
32		manner or form. Red and amber lights are permissible.				
33	(6)	Investigators shall not be issued a weapon of any type.				
33 34	$\frac{(0)}{(7)}$	Investigators shall have no authority to arrest or issue criminal process.				
35	$\frac{(7)}{(8)}$	Investigators shall investigate crashes involving only property damage.				
36	<u>(0)</u>	Investigators shall comply with all provisions of G.S. 20-166.1. A report				
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1		completed by an Investigator shall be treated the same as if it were	completed
2		by a law enforcement officer for purposes of G.S. 20-166.1	(i). A law
3		enforcement officer shall investigate any crash involving personal	injury or a
4		<u>fatality.</u>	
5	<u>(9)</u>	Investigators shall have the same authority as a law enforcement of	ficer to tow
6		or remove a vehicle that is obstructing a public street or highway.	,
7	SEC	TION 2. Not later than December 31, 2023, the City of Durham shall	ll submit to
8	the House of Rep	presentatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Saf	ety and the
9	Senate Committe	ee on Appropriations on Justice and Public Safety a written report on t	the training
10	and use of Civil	lian Traffic Investigators, as authorized in Section 1 of this act, for	the period
11	commencing on	the effective date of this act and concluding November 1, 2023.	
12	SEC	TION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.	