

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

**H.B. 138**  
**Feb 16, 2023**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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**HOUSE BILL DRH40068-NE-81**

Short Title: Failure to Yield to Blind Pedestrians/Penalty. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Morey.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A BLIND  
3 OR PARTIALLY BLIND PEDESTRIAN UNDER G.S. 20-175.2 IS A CLASS 2  
4 MISDEMEANOR.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-175.2 reads as rewritten:  
7 **"§ 20-175.2. Right-of-way at crossings, intersections and traffic-control signal points; white**  
8 **cane or guide dog to serve as signal for the blind.**

9 At any street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is not  
10 regulated by a traffic officer or by traffic-control signals, any blind or partially blind pedestrian  
11 shall be entitled to the right-of-way at such crossing or intersection, if such blind or partially  
12 blind pedestrian shall extend before him at arm's length a cane white in color or white tipped with  
13 red, or if such person is accompanied by a guide dog. Upon receiving such a signal, all vehicles  
14 at or approaching such intersection or crossing shall come to a full stop, leaving a clear lane  
15 through which such pedestrian may pass, and such vehicle shall remain stationary until such blind  
16 or partially blind pedestrian has completed the passage of such crossing or intersection. At any  
17 street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is regulated by  
18 traffic-control signals, blind or partially blind pedestrians shall be entitled to the right-of-way if  
19 such person having such cane or accompanied by a guide dog shall be partly across such crossing  
20 or intersection at the time the traffic-control signals change, and all vehicles shall stop and remain  
21 stationary until such pedestrian has completed passage across the intersection or crossing. Any  
22 person who fails to yield the right-of-way to a blind or partially blind pedestrian as required by  
23 this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

24 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses  
25 committed on or after that date.

