

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 394
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H394-CSCE-7 [v.1]
04/10/2025 10:17:09 AM

Short Title: Distracted Driving/ Animals.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 17, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO INTERACT WITH ANIMALS IN AN UNSAFE
3 MANNER WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC STREET,
4 HIGHWAY, OR PUBLIC VEHICULAR AREA.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 **SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
7 a new section to read:
8 "**§ 20-137.4B. Distracted driving caused by interacting with animals prohibited.**
9 **(a) Prohibited Conduct.** – It shall be unlawful for a person to operate a vehicle on a public
10 street, highway, or public vehicular area while interacting with an animal in a manner that impairs
11 or restricts the proper operation of the motor vehicle and results in operation that is careless,
12 reckless, or heedless under the conditions then existing.
13 **(b) Exception.** – The provisions of this section shall not apply to fully autonomous
14 vehicles being operated in accordance with Article 18 of this Chapter.
15 **(c) Penalty.** – A violation of this section shall be an infraction punishable by a fine of one
16 hundred dollars (\$100.00) and the costs of court. No insurance surcharge shall be assessed as a
17 result of a violation of this section."
18 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses
19 committed on or after that date. For the six months immediately after the effective date of this
20 act, law enforcement shall only issue warning tickets for offenses committed.



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