

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 26  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/31/03  
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 4/15/03**

Short Title: Camera Defeating License Covers Illegal.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 17, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THAT DEVICES DESIGNED TO COVER REGISTRATION  
2 PLATES TO PREVENT THE TAKING OF A CLEAR PHOTOGRAPH BY  
3 TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS USING CAMERAS ARE UNLAWFUL.  
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-63(g) reads as rewritten:

7 "(g) Alteration, Disguise, or Concealment of Numbers. – Any operator of a motor  
8 vehicle who shall willfully mutilate, bend, twist, cover or cause to be covered or  
9 partially covered by any bumper, light, spare tire, tire rack, strap, or other device, or  
10 who shall paint, enamel, emboss, stamp, print, perforate, or alter or add to or cut off any  
11 part or portion of a registration plate or the figures or letters thereon, or who shall place  
12 or deposit or cause to be placed or deposited any oil, grease, or other substance upon  
13 such registration plates for the purpose of making dust adhere thereto, or who shall  
14 deface, disfigure, change, or attempt to change any letter or figure thereon, or who shall  
15 display a number plate in other than a horizontal upright position, shall be guilty of a  
16 Class 2 misdemeanor. Any operator of a motor vehicle who shall willfully cover or  
17 cause to be covered any part or portion of a registration plate or the figures or letters  
18 thereon by any device designed or intended to prevent or interfere with the taking of a  
19 clear photograph of a registration plate by a traffic control system using cameras  
20 commits an infraction and shall be fined under G.S. 14-3.1. Any operator of a motor  
21 vehicle who shall otherwise intentionally cover any number or registration renewal  
22 sticker on a registration plate with any material that makes the number or registration  
23 renewal sticker illegible commits an infraction and shall be fined under G.S. 14-3.1.  
24 Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the use of transparent covers that are not  
25 designed or intended to prevent or interfere with the taking of a clear photograph of a  
26 registration plate by a traffic control system using cameras."

27 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2003, and applies to acts  
28 committed on or after that date.