

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 493

Short Title: Prohibit Aftermarket HID Headlights. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Walters (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Transportation.

March 28, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITH CERTAIN  
3 HEADLAMPS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-131 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 20-131. Requirements as to headlamps and auxiliary driving lamps.**

7 (a) The headlamps of motor vehicles shall be so constructed, arranged, and adjusted  
8 that, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, they will at all times mentioned in  
9 G.S. 20-129, and under normal atmospheric conditions and on a level road, produce a driving  
10 light sufficient to render clearly discernible a person 200 feet ahead, but any person operating a  
11 motor vehicle upon the highways, when meeting another vehicle, shall so control the lights of  
12 the vehicle operated by him by shifting, depressing, deflecting, tilting, or dimming the  
13 headlight beams in such manner as shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons within  
14 a distance of 500 feet in front of such headlamp. Every new motor vehicle, other than a  
15 motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, registered in this State after January 1, 1956, which has  
16 multiple-beam road-lighting equipment shall be equipped with a beam indicator, which shall be  
17 lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the headlamps is in use, and shall not  
18 otherwise be lighted. Said indicator shall be so designed and located that when lighted it will be  
19 readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle so equipped.

20 (b) Headlamps shall be deemed to comply with the foregoing provisions prohibiting  
21 glaring and dazzling lights if none of the main bright portion of the headlamp beams rises  
22 above a horizontal plane passing through the lamp centers parallel to the level road upon which  
23 the loaded vehicle stands, and in no case higher than 42 inches, 75 feet ahead of the vehicle.

24 (b1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle that is equipped with any headlamps that (i)  
25 tend to change the original design or performance of the headlamps and (ii) do not comply with  
26 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, as adopted by the National Highway Traffic  
27 Safety Administration. Any person who violates this section is guilty of an infraction  
28 punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

29 (c) Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated upon a highway, or portion thereof,  
30 which is sufficiently lighted to reveal a person on the highway at a distance of 200 feet ahead of  
31 the vehicle, it shall be permissible to dim the headlamps or to tilt the beams downward or to  
32 substitute therefor the light from an auxiliary driving lamp or pair of such lamps, subject to the  
33 restrictions as to tilted beams and auxiliary driving lamps set forth in this section.

34 (d) Whenever a motor vehicle meets another vehicle on any highway it shall be  
35 permissible to tilt the beams of the headlamps downward or to substitute therefor the light from  
36 an auxiliary driving lamp or pair of such lamps subject to the requirement that the tilted



1 headlamps or auxiliary lamp or lamps shall give sufficient illumination under normal  
2 atmospheric conditions and on a level road to render clearly discernible a person 75 feet ahead,  
3 but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons in front of the vehicle: Provided, that  
4 at all times required in G.S. 20-129 at least two lights shall be displayed on the front of and on  
5 opposite sides of every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, road roller, road machinery, or  
6 farm tractor.

7 (e) No city or town shall enact an ordinance in conflict with this section."

8 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-183.3(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

9 "(a) Safety. – A safety inspection of a motor vehicle consists of an inspection of the  
10 following equipment to determine if the vehicle has the equipment required by Part 9 of Article  
11 3 of this Chapter and if the equipment is in a safe operating condition:

12 ...  
13 (2) Lights, as required by G.S. 20-129 or G.S. 20-129.1. To determine if a  
14 vehicle's headlamps are in a safe operating condition that complies with the  
15 lighting restrictions in G.S. 20-131, a safety inspection mechanic must first  
16 determine if aftermarket headlamps are installed. If aftermarket headlamps  
17 have been installed, the mechanic must use a light meter approved by the  
18 Commissioner to determine if the headlamps comply with the Federal Motor  
19 Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, as adopted by the National Highway  
20 Traffic Safety Administration.

21 ...."

22 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.