

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 247
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/5/99

Short Title: Funeral Processions.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 4, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REGULATE FUNERAL PROCESSIONS AND TO CODIFY THE
RULES OF THE ROAD WITH REGARD TO FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 20-157.1. Funeral processions.

(a) As used in this section, a 'funeral procession' means two or more vehicles accompanying the remains of a deceased person, or traveling to the church, chapel, or other location at which the funeral services are to be held, in which the lead vehicle is either a State or local law enforcement vehicle, other designated official vehicle, or the lead vehicle displays a flashing amber or purple light, sign, pennant, flag, or other insignia furnished by a funeral home indicating a funeral procession.

(b) Each vehicle in the funeral procession shall be operated with its headlights illuminated, if so equipped, and its hazard warning signal lamps illuminated, if so equipped.

(c) The operator of the lead vehicle in a funeral procession shall comply with all traffic-control signals, but when the lead vehicle in a funeral procession has progressed across an intersection in accordance with the traffic-control sign or signal, or when

1 directed to do so by a law enforcement officer or an official designee, or when the lead
2 vehicle is a law enforcement vehicle which progresses across the intersection while
3 giving appropriate warning by light or siren, all vehicles in the funeral procession may
4 proceed through the intersection without stopping, except that the operator of each
5 vehicle shall exercise reasonable care towards any other vehicle or pedestrian on the
6 highway. An operator of a vehicle that is not part of the funeral procession shall not join
7 the funeral procession for the purpose of securing the right-of-way granted by this
8 subsection.