

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 426

Senate State and Local Government Committee Substitute Adopted 6/3/99

Third Edition Engrossed 6/9/99

Short Title: Local Red Light Cameras.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 15, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITIES OF GREENSBORO, HIGH POINT, AND
ROCKY MOUNT TO USE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES AS PRIMA FACIE
EVIDENCE OF A TRAFFIC VIOLATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Section 1 of Chapter 216 of the 1997 Session Laws reads as
rewritten:

"Section 1. Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
section to read:

'§ 160A-300.1. Use of traffic control photographic systems.

(a) A traffic control photographic system is an electronic system consisting of a
photographic, video, or electronic camera and a vehicle sensor installed to work in
conjunction with an official traffic control device to automatically produce photographs,
video, or digital images of each vehicle violating a standard traffic control statute or
ordinance.

(b) Any traffic control photographic system or any device which is a part of that
system, as described in subdivision (a) of this section, installed on a street or highway
which is a part of the State highway system shall meet requirements established by the

1 North Carolina Department of Transportation. Any traffic control system installed on a
2 municipal street shall meet standards established by the municipality and shall be
3 consistent with any standards set by the Department of Transportation.

4 (b1) Any traffic control photographic system installed on a street or highway must
5 be identified by appropriate advance warning signs conspicuously posted not more than
6 300 feet from the location of the traffic control photographic system. All advance
7 warning signs shall be consistent with a statewide standard adopted by the Department of
8 Transportation in conjunction with local governments authorized to install traffic control
9 photographic systems.

10 (c) Municipalities may adopt ordinances for the civil enforcement of G.S. 20-158
11 by means of a traffic control photographic system, as described in subsection (a) of this
12 section. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 20-176, in the event that a municipality
13 adopts an ordinance pursuant to this section, a violation of G.S. 20-158 at a location at
14 which a traffic control photographic system is in operation shall not be an infraction. An
15 ordinance authorized by this subsection shall provide that:

16 (1) The owner of a vehicle shall be responsible for a violation unless the
17 owner can furnish evidence that the vehicle was, at the time of the
18 violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person. The owner
19 of the vehicle shall not be responsible for the violation if the owner of
20 the vehicle, within 21 days after notification of the violation, furnishes
21 the officials or agents of the municipality which issued the citation:

22 a. The name and address of the person or company who leased,
23 rented, or otherwise had the care, custody, and control of the
24 vehicle; or

25 b. An affidavit stating that the vehicle involved was, at the time,
26 stolen or in the care, custody, or control of some person who did
27 not have permission of the owner to use the vehicle.

28 (2) A violation detected by a traffic control photographic system shall be
29 deemed a noncriminal violation for which a civil penalty of fifty dollars
30 (\$50.00) shall be assessed, and for which no points authorized by G.S.
31 20-16(c) shall be assigned to the owner or driver of the ~~vehicle.~~ vehicle
32 nor insurance points as authorized by G.S. 58-36-65.

33 (3) The owner of the vehicle shall be issued a citation which shall clearly
34 state the manner in which the violation may be challenged, and the
35 owner shall comply with the directions on the citation. The citation
36 shall be processed by officials or agents of the municipality and shall be
37 forwarded by personal service or first-class mail to the address given on
38 the motor vehicle registration. If the owner fails to pay the civil penalty
39 or to respond to the citation within the time period specified on the
40 citation, the owner shall have waived the right to contest responsibility
41 for the violation, and shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one
42 hundred dollars (\$100.00). The municipality may establish procedures

1 for the collection of these penalties and may enforce the penalties by
2 civil action in the nature of debt.

3 (4) The municipality shall institute a nonjudicial administrative hearing to
4 review objections to citations or penalties issued or assessed under this
5 section."

6 Section 2. Section 2 of Chapter 216 of the 1997 Session Laws, as amended by
7 S.L. 1999-17, reads as rewritten:

8 "Section 2. This act applies to the Cities of ~~Charlotte and Fayetteville only.~~ Charlotte,
9 Fayetteville, Greensboro, High Point, and Rocky Mount only."

10 Section 3. This act becomes effective January 1, 2000.