

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 2041*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/15/06

Short Title: Civilian Traffic Investigators.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 17, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE TO USE CIVILIAN
2 TRAFFIC INVESTIGATORS TO INVESTIGATE PROPERTY DAMAGE
3 CRASHES.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** This act applies to the City of Fayetteville only.

7 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the City of
8 Fayetteville is hereby authorized to employ and allow civilian personnel to investigate
9 traffic crashes. The civilian personnel shall be known as "Civilian Traffic Investigators".

10 **SECTION 3.** The City of Fayetteville shall establish the minimum standards
11 for employment as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.

12 **SECTION 4.** Each Civilian Traffic Investigator shall attend a training
13 program designed by Fayetteville Technical Community College, Office of Protective
14 Services Training. Upon completion of the training program, a Civilian Traffic
15 Investigator shall spend not less than four weeks of field training with a law
16 enforcement officer who is a certified traffic investigator and has experience conducting
17 traffic crash investigations.

18 **SECTION 5.** Each Civilian Traffic Investigator shall be issued credentials
19 by the City of Fayetteville identifying the individual as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.
20 The Civilian Traffic Investigator shall produce official credentials at any time when
21 requested by a member of the public involved in or as a witness to a crash. A Civilian
22 Traffic Investigator shall be issued a uniform that is substantially different in color and
23 style from that of a law enforcement officer for the City of Fayetteville. Civilian Traffic
24 Investigators shall not be issued badges.

25 **SECTION 6.** Any vehicles issued to, or used by, a Civilian Traffic
26 Investigator shall not bear markings or symbols that identify the vehicle as a police
27 vehicle. The vehicle may have emergency equipment and lights installed but shall not
28 use blue lights in any manner or form. Red and amber lights are permissible.

1 **SECTION 7.** Civilian Traffic Investigators shall investigate only crashes
2 involving property damage. A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall comply with all
3 provisions of G.S. 20-166.1. However, a report completed by a Civilian Traffic
4 Investigator shall be treated the same as if it were completed by a law enforcement
5 officer for the purposes of evidence and trial pursuant to G.S. 20-166.1(i). A law
6 enforcement officer shall investigate any crash involving personal injury or a fatality.

7 **SECTION 8.** A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall have no authority to arrest
8 or issue criminal process. They shall not be issued a weapon of any type. An assault on
9 a Civilian Traffic Investigator is a violation of G.S. 14-33(c)(4).

10 **SECTION 9.** A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall have the same authority as
11 a law enforcement officer to tow or remove a vehicle that is obstructing a public street
12 or highway.

13 **SECTION 10.** This act is effective when it becomes law.