

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 1011
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/7/22

Short Title: Greenville/Wilmington Traffic Investigators.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 23, 2022

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GREENVILLE TO EMPLOY TRAFFIC CRASH
3 INVESTIGATORS FOR WRECKS INVOLVING ONLY PROPERTY DAMAGE AND TO
4 ENHANCE EXISTING AUTHORITY GRANTED TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC
5 INVESTIGATORS FOR THE CITY OF WILMINGTON.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** This section applies to the City of Greenville only.

8 **SECTION 1.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the City of Greenville
9 is hereby authorized to employ and allow nonsworn personnel to investigate traffic crashes. The
10 nonsworn personnel shall be known as "Traffic Crash Investigators."

11 **SECTION 1.(c)** The City of Greenville shall establish the minimum standards for
12 employment as a Traffic Crash Investigator.

13 **SECTION 1.(d)** Each Traffic Crash Investigator shall attend a training program
14 designed by the Greenville Police Department, in consultation with the North Carolina Justice
15 Academy. Upon completion of the training program, a Traffic Crash Investigator shall spend not
16 less than four weeks of field training with a law enforcement officer who has experience
17 conducting traffic crash investigations.

18 **SECTION 1.(e)** Each Traffic Crash Investigator shall be issued credentials by the
19 City of Greenville identifying the individual as a Traffic Crash Investigator. The Traffic Crash
20 Investigator shall produce official credentials at any time when requested by a member of the
21 public involved in or as a witness to a crash. A Traffic Crash Investigator shall be issued a
22 uniform that is substantially different in color and style from that of a law enforcement officer
23 for the City of Greenville. The uniform shall have patches that clearly identify the individual as
24 a Traffic Crash Investigator. The individual's name shall be clearly displayed on the uniform.
25 Traffic Crash Investigators shall not be issued badges.

26 **SECTION 1.(f)** Vehicles issued to, or used by, a Traffic Crash Investigator shall not
27 bear markings or symbols that identify the vehicle as a police vehicle. The vehicle may have
28 emergency equipment and lights installed but shall not use blue lights in any manner or form.
29 Red and amber lights are permissible.

30 **SECTION 1.(g)** Traffic Crash Investigators shall investigate crashes involving only
31 property damage. A Traffic Crash Investigator shall comply with all provisions of G.S. 20-166.1.
32 A report completed by a Traffic Crash Investigator shall be treated the same as if it were
33 completed by a law enforcement officer for the purposes of G.S. 20-166.1(i). A law enforcement
34 officer shall investigate any crash involving personal injury or a fatality.

35 **SECTION 1.(h)** A Traffic Crash Investigator shall have no authority to arrest or
36 issue criminal process. A Traffic Crash Investigator shall not be issued a weapon of any type.



1 **SECTION 1.(i)** A Traffic Crash Investigator shall have the same authority as a law
2 enforcement officer to tow or remove a vehicle that is obstructing a public street or highway.

3 **SECTION 1.(j)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Traffic Crash
4 Investigator shall have the same authority as a law enforcement officer to direct all traffic in
5 conformance with law and, in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or to
6 ensure safety, to direct traffic as conditions may require.

7 **SECTION 1.(k)** Not later than December 31, 2023, the City of Greenville shall
8 deliver to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
9 and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety a written report on the
10 training and use of Traffic Crash Investigators for the period commencing on the effective date
11 of this act and concluding November 1, 2023.

12 **SECTION 2.** Section 8 of S.L. 2007-218 reads as rewritten:

13 ~~"SECTION 8. SECTION 8.(a)~~ A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall have no authority to
14 arrest or issue criminal ~~prœess.~~ process, except citations pursuant to subsection (b) of this
15 section. A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall not be issued a weapon of any type.

16 "SECTION 8.(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Civilian Traffic Investigator
17 shall have the authority to issue citations for infractions under Chapter 20 of the General Statutes
18 related to the traffic crashes that the Civilian Traffic Investigator investigates."

19 **SECTION 3.** S.L. 2007-218 is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

20 "SECTION 9A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Civilian Traffic Investigator
21 shall have the same authority as a law enforcement officer to direct all traffic in conformance
22 with law and, in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or to ensure safety,
23 to direct traffic as conditions may require."

24 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.