

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H.B. 692  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10334-NE-85

Short Title: Restrict Certain Vehicle Modifications.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative B. Jones.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO PASSENGER VEHICLES  
3 OPERATING ON HIGHWAYS OR PUBLIC VEHICULAR AREAS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-135.4 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 20-135.4. Certain automobile safety standards.

7 (a) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the term "private passenger  
8 automobile" ~~shall mean~~ means a four-wheeled motor vehicle designed principally for carrying  
9 passengers, for use ~~passengers~~ on public roads and highways, ~~except a multipurpose passenger~~  
10 ~~vehicle which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional~~  
11 ~~off-road operation.~~ highways.

12 (b), (c) Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 856.

13 (d) ~~The manufacturer's specified height of any passenger motor vehicle shall not be~~  
14 ~~elevated or lowered, either in front or back, more than six inches by modification, alteration, or~~  
15 ~~change of the physical structure of said vehicle without prior written approval of the~~  
16 ~~Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. On or after January 1, 1975, no self-propelled passenger~~  
17 ~~vehicle that has been so altered, modified or changed.~~ Prohibited Modifications. – A private  
18 passenger automobile shall not be modified or altered by (i) elevating the automobile more than  
19 3 inches from the manufacturer's specified height in the front and (ii) lowering the automobile  
20 more than 2 inches from the manufacturer's specified height in the rear. A private passenger  
21 automobile modified or altered in violation of this subsection shall not be operated upon any  
22 highway or public vehicular area without the prior written approval of the Commissioner.  
23 Any person operating a private passenger automobile in violation of this subsection shall be  
24 guilty of an infraction and punished in accordance with G.S. 20-176."

25 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-17 reads as rewritten:

26 "§ 20-17. Mandatory revocation of license by Division.

27 (a) The Division shall forthwith revoke the license of any driver upon receiving a record  
28 of the driver's conviction for any of the following offenses:

29 ...

30 (17) A third or subsequent conviction of operating a private passenger automobile  
31 with prohibited modifications on any highway or public vehicular area under  
32 G.S. 20-135.4(d). A conviction for violating G.S. 20-135.4(d) is a third or  
33 subsequent conviction if at the time of the current infraction the person has  
34 two or more previous convictions under G.S. 20-135.4 that occurred in the 12  
35 months immediately preceding the date of the current infraction.

36 ...."



1                   **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-19 reads as rewritten:

2   "**§ 20-19. Period of suspension or revocation; conditions of restoration.**

3                   ...

4           (c2a) When a license is suspended under G.S. 20-17(a)(17), the period of revocation shall

5 be not less than one year.

6                   ...."

7                   **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to offenses

8 committed on or after that date.