



HOUSE BILL 418: SOS/Save Our Street Signs.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary II	Date:	April 11, 2017
Introduced by:	Rep. Clampitt	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H418-CSBG-11		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 418 would increase the criminal penalty, and allowable DOT reward for information, related to damaging, removing, or possessing street signs and traffic control devices.*

The PCS to Edition 1 would clarify that traffic signs include traffic control devices, modifies the amount and disposition of fines for violations, and removes any change to the reward source.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 136-33(a) and (b) create violations for willfully defacing, damaging, knocking down, removing, or possessing (without just cause or excuse), signs as provided in G.S. 136-26 (traffic barriers and signs related to construction or maintenance) or G.S. 136-30 (uniform signs and other traffic control devices on highways, streets, and public vehicular areas).

A violation under the provisions of this section is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor. A Class 2 misdemeanor may include a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of the PCS would:

- Clarify that traffic signs include traffic control devices.
- Increase the penalty for a violation under this section from a Class 2 misdemeanor to a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Impose a one thousand dollar fine (\$1,000) for a violation.
- Increase the maximum allowable DOT reward for information, leading to an arrest and conviction, from five hundred dollars (\$500) to one thousand dollars (\$1000).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective December 1, 2017, and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578