



# HOUSE BILL 418: SOS/Save Our Street Signs.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary II	<b>Date:</b>	April 25, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Clampitt	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Susan Sitze
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition H418-CSBG-14		Howard Marsilio Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) 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. It would also clarify that traffic signs include traffic control devices, and modify the amount and disposition of fines for violations.*

*The PCS makes a technical correction by substituting the phrase "traffic sign and other traffic control device" with the phrase "traffic sign or other traffic control device."*

**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:**

The bill 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 \$1,000 fine for a violation.
- Increase the maximum allowable DOT reward for information, leading to an arrest and conviction, from \$500 to \$1000.

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

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