



# HOUSE BILL 716: CMVs/Use of Platoons.

**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	May 31, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Torbett	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Howard Marsilio
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H716-CSRW-25		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 716 (proposed committee substitute) would exempt the driver of a nonleading commercial motor vehicle traveling in a platoon, where authorized by the Department of Transportation, from the statutory requirements that vehicles leave sufficient space between them.*

*The proposed committee substitute limits the applicability of Section 1 to only those areas authorized by DOT, and adds Section 2.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 20-152(a) requires a driver of a motor vehicle to keep a reasonable and prudent distance between vehicles when driving, while considering the speed of others, traffic, and highway conditions.

G.S. 20-152(b) requires a motor vehicle following another motor vehicle to leave sufficient space for an overtaking vehicle to merge between the two vehicles without danger, if conditions permit. This subsection does not apply to funeral processions.

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1** would exempt the drivers of nonleading commercial motor vehicles traveling in a platoon, only as authorized by the Department, from the spacing requirements in G.S. 20-152. A platoon means a group of individual commercial motor vehicles traveling in a unified manner with an electronically interconnected braking system.

**Section 2** would require the Department to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on the implementation of this act by April 1, 2018.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective July 1, 2017. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

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