



HOUSE BILL 716: CMVs/Use of Platoons.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by: Rep. Torbett

Analysis of: Third Edition

Date:

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Prepared by:

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OVERVIEW: *House Bill 716 would exempt the driver of a nonleading commercial motor vehicle traveling in a "platoon" from the requirements that a vehicle following another vehicle leave sufficient space between them, when authorized by the Department of Transportation by traffic ordinance.*

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.

The Department of Transportation (Department) currently has the power to make rules, regulations, and ordinances related to State highway use, as long as they do not conflict with any effective statute or ordinance of incorporated cities or towns.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would add a subsection (c) to G.S. 20-152, exempting the drivers of nonleading commercial motor vehicles traveling in a platoon, unified through an electronically interconnected braking system, from the spacing requirements in subsection (a) and subsection (b) of this section when authorized by the Department by traffic ordinance.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective August 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.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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Legislative Analysis
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