



# HOUSE BILL 716: Commercial Motor Vehicles/Use of Platoons.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	August 10, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Giles Perry Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2017-169		

**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2017-169 exempts the driver of a nonleading commercial motor vehicle traveling in a "platoon" from the requirement that a vehicle following another vehicle leave sufficient space between them, when authorized by the Department of Transportation (DOT) by traffic ordinance.*

*This act became effective August 1, 2017.*

**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.

DOT 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 a municipality.

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1** exempts the drivers of nonleading commercial motor vehicles traveling in a platoon, unified through an electronically interconnected braking system, from the spacing requirements of the State's "following too closely" statute, when authorized by DOT traffic ordinance.

**Section 2** directs DOT 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 became effective August 1, 2017. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act.

*Howard Marsilio of the Legislative Analysis Division substantially contributed to this summary.*

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