



HOUSE BILL 844: DOT/Traffic Signal Oversight.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Transportation | Date: | April 24, 2017 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Adams, Malone, Torbett | Prepared by: | Giles Perry |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | Staff Attorney |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 844 amends the powers of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to grant them authority and supervision over electronic traffic signals and other electronic traffic control devices on the public highways, roads, and streets of the State.*

CURRENT LAW: Current G.S. 136-30 provides the following:

- *"State Highway System. – The Department of Transportation may number and mark highways in the State highway system. All traffic signs and other traffic control devices placed on a highway in the State highway system must conform to the Uniform Manual. The Department of Transportation shall have the power to control all signs within the right of way of highways in the State highway system. The Department of Transportation may erect signs directing persons to roads and places of importance."*
- *"Municipal Street System. – All traffic signs and other traffic control devices placed on a municipal street system street must conform to the appearance criteria of the Uniform Manual. All traffic control devices placed on a highway that is within the corporate limits of a municipality but is part of the State highway system must be approved by the Department of Transportation."*

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 844 amends the powers of DOT to:

- Give to DOT the authority and supervision over electronic traffic signals and other electronic traffic control devices on the public highways, roads, and streets of the State.
- Direct DOT to develop and publish on its Web site standards that must be met when operating electronic traffic signals and other electronic traffic control devices.
- Provide that if DOT determines that a local government is not operating electronic traffic signals and other electronic traffic control devices in accordance with the standards established under this act, DOT shall notify the local government in writing and specify what standard or standards are not being met.
- Provides that if the local government fails to take corrective action within 60 days of receiving notice from the DOT, DOT shall assume control over the operation of the electronic traffic signal or electronic traffic control device, and DOT shall maintain control over the operation until the local government demonstrates to the satisfaction of DOT the ability to operate the electronic traffic signal or electronic traffic control device in accordance with the standards established under this act.

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- Provides that if DOT assumes control of the operation of an electronic traffic signal or electronic traffic control device, the local government shall reimburse DOT for any costs incurred by DOT during its control of the operation.
- Provides that DOT shall commence development of the standards required.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2017. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.