



SENATE BILL 217: Richmond/Right-of-Way Safety.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: House Wildlife Resources
Introduced by: Sen. McInnis
Analysis of: First Edition

Date: June 21, 2017
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OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 217 would prohibit the discharge or attempted discharge of a firearm or bow and arrow from or across the roadway or right-of-way of any public road in Richmond County. The act would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.*

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 217 would do all of the following:

- Prohibit the discharge or attempted discharge of a firearm or bow and arrow from, on, across, or over the roadway or right-of-way of any public road in Richmond County. This does not include any unpaved roads within the Wildlife Resources Commission's Sandhills Game Land.
- Provide that a violation of the act would be a Class 3 misdemeanor.¹
- Provide that the act is enforceable by law enforcement officers of the Wildlife Resources Commission, by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and by peace officers with general subject matter jurisdiction.

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

BACKGROUND: Similar local laws have been enacted in the following counties:

- Beaufort County – S.L. 2013-176
- Craven County (only applies to a portion of State Road 1862) – S.L. 2009-116
- Martin County – S.L. 2008-50
- Jackson County – S.L. 2008-18
- Tyrrell County (only prohibits reckless use of firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow) – S.L. 2007-273
- Bertie County – S.L. 2007-313
- Cherokee and Clay Counties – S.L. 2004-63

Jessica Sammons, Staff Attorney for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed to this summary.

¹ The punishment for a Class 3 misdemeanor for someone with no more than 3 prior convictions is a fine. For someone with five or more prior convictions, the punishment would be 1-20 days of community, intermediate, or active punishment. Fines for Class 3 misdemeanors generally may not exceed \$200. G.S. 15A-1340.23(b).

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