



HOUSE BILL 104: Grass Clippings in Road Prohibition.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 1, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Torbett	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	PCS to Third Edition H104-CSBG-23		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 104 would create a new offense for discarding grass clippings on the paved area of a public highway. Exceptions would be provided for accidental spilling of clippings when transporting them in a reasonable manner and for placing clippings out for collection under an applicable local ordinance. Violation would be an infraction.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S81, as introduced by Sen. T. Alexander, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

CURRENT LAW: The current prohibition on littering covers all public and private property and provides a range of offense classifications and penalties, depending on the amount and type of litter. Litter is defined as "any garbage, rubbish, trash, refuse, can, bottle, box, container, wrapper, paper, paper product, tire, appliance, mechanical equipment or part, building or construction material, tool, machinery, wood, motor vehicle or motor vehicle part, vessel, aircraft, farm machinery or equipment, sludge from a waste treatment facility, dead animal, or discarded material in any form resulting from domestic, industrial, commercial, mining, agricultural, or governmental operations." The litter definition does not explicitly include grass clippings.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 104 would create a new offense that makes it unlawful for a person to discard grass clippings on the paved area of a public street or highway. A violation would be an infraction, which is punishable by a fine up to \$100.

The prohibition would not apply to the accidental blowing or spilling of grass clippings in operating, loading, or unloading of a vehicle used to transport the clippings if the vehicle is being operated in a reasonable manner. Nor would it apply to the placement of grass clippings for curbside collection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective December 1, 2019 and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578