



HOUSE BILL 784: Traffic-Control Training Program.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	July 23, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Brody, McNeill	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H784-CSSVf-34		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 784 would do the following:*

- *Increase the minimum age requirement from 18 to 21 years old to be appointed as a traffic-control officer by a law enforcement agency.*
- *Require the NC Justice Academy, in collaboration with the NC Community College System, to develop an 8-hour training course for persons seeking to be appointed as traffic-control officers as an alternative training method to the training currently offered by law enforcement.*

The PCS makes one change by directing the North Carolina Community College System to work in consultation with the NC Justice Academy to develop the traffic-control officer training course.

CURRENT LAW: The chief of police of a local police department or the sheriff of any county is authorized to appoint a person as a traffic-control officer if the person is at least 18 years of age and has completed at least 3 hours of training in directing, controlling, or regulating traffic under the supervision of a law enforcement officer. There must also be an indemnity policy in place in the event of wrongful death, bodily injury, or property damage caused by the negligence of the traffic-control officer.

Once appointed, the person may direct traffic within the jurisdiction at times and places specifically designated by the appointing law enforcement authority. The authorization expires two years after issuance. While a traffic-control officer is subject to the rules and regulations of the respective law enforcement jurisdiction and is subject to the command of any law enforcement officer, a traffic-control officer is not considered an agent or employee of local law enforcement, is not considered a law enforcement officer, and does not have arrest powers.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 784 would:

- Increase the minimum age requirement for a traffic-control officer from 18 years old to 21 years old.
- Direct the NC Community College System, in consultation with the NC Justice Academy, to develop an 8-hour training course that includes 4 hours of classroom training and 4 hours of roadside training as well as a refresher course for people seeking appointment as a traffic-control officer.
- Extend the term of a traffic-control officer's appointment from two to three years.
- Require that the indemnity policy be non-cancelable within the authorization period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2019.

Howard Marsilio, counsel to House State and Local Government, substantially contributed to this summary.

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