



SENATE BILL 220: Removal of Political Signs by Citizens.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	March 27, 2019
Introduced by:	Sens. D. Davis, Tillman, Hise	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S220-CSBG-20		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 220 would authorize a citizen to remove political signs that remain in public right-of-way after a specified time, and dispose of those signs without penalty.

CURRENT LAW: Currently, G.S. 136-32 permits the placement of political signs within the State highway right-of-way if they comply with the following requirements:

- Must only be placed during the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day.
- Must be removed by the end of the 10th day after the primary or election day.
- The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected.
- No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
- No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
- No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the 10 day deadline.

It is currently a Class 1 misdemeanor to violate any provision of G.S. 136-32.

It is currently a Class 3 misdemeanor, under G.S. 136-32(e), for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 220 would authorize a citizen to remove political signs that remain in the public right-of-way after 30 days of the deadline for political sign removal under current law, and dispose of those signs without penalty.

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

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Legislative Analysis
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