



# HOUSE BILL 740: Defined Merging Areas/Zipper Merge.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 11, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Turner, Greene, Pless, Farkas	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kellette Wade
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 740 would require drivers to utilize both lanes of traffic where two lanes merge into one at a merging area, and, beginning with the driver in the right lane, alternate yielding the right-of-way until there is no longer a queue at the merging area, colloquially known as the "zipper merge." The Bill would also require drivers education on the merging method.

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 20-155 establishes traffic laws for yielding rights-of-way in the following circumstances:

- When two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different highways.
- When a driver is turning left within an intersection.
- When a driver should yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in business or residential districts.
- When a driver is approaching a traffic circle.

G.S. 20-156 establishes certain exceptions to the right-of-way traffic laws in G.S. 20-155.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 740 would create a new subdivision in the General Statutes at G.S. 20-155 requiring drivers to utilize both lanes of traffic where two lanes merge into one at a merging area, and, beginning with the driver in the right lane, alternate yielding the right-of-way until there is no longer a queue at the merging area, colloquially known as the "zipper merge." The Bill would also require drivers education on the merging method.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2021 and applies to motor vehicle offenses charged on or after that date. Section 2(a) of this act becomes effective January 1, 2022. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

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