



2023-2024 General Assembly

# SENATE BILL 582: North Carolina Farm Act of 2023, Sec. 3.1: Farm Equipment Defense for Stop Light Inductive Loops

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	November 27, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Sec. 3.1 of S.L. 2023-63		

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**OVERVIEW:** *Section 3.1 of S.L. 2023-63 creates a statutory defense for the operator of farm equipment or machinery who runs a red light using an inductive loop to activate the traffic signal if all the following conditions are met:*

- *The operator brought the farm equipment or machinery to a complete stop at the light.*
- *No other vehicle that was entitled to have the right-of-way was sitting at, traveling through, or approaching the intersection.*
- *No pedestrians were attempting to cross at or near the intersection.*
- *The farm equipment or machinery operator waited at least three minutes at the intersection before entering.*

*This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 23, 2023, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 27, 2023.*

*This section became effective June 27, 2023.*

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

Under previously existing law, a motorcycle operator who runs a red light controlled by a vehicle-actuated traffic signal using an inductive loop to activate the traffic signal has a statutory defense if:

- The operator brought the motorcycle to a complete stop at the light.
- No other vehicle that was entitled to have the right-of-way was sitting at, traveling through, or approaching the intersection.
- No pedestrians were attempting to cross at or near the intersection.
- The motorcycle operator waited at least three minutes at the intersection before entering.

A vehicle-actuated traffic signal using an inductive loop can require the vehicle's tires to cross a sensor for the light to change, and motorcycles cannot trigger the sensor.

**Section 3.1** of S.L. 2023-63 grants the operator of farm equipment or machinery the same defense that is granted to the operator of a motorcycle under these conditions.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578

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## **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

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