

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 2041\***

Short Title: Civilian Traffic Investigators. (Local)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Dickson and Glazier (Primary Sponsors).

---

Referred to: Local Government II.

---

May 17, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE TO USE CIVILIAN  
2 TRAFFIC INVESTIGATORS TO INVESTIGATE PROPERTY DAMAGE  
3 CRASHES.  
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** This act applies to the City of Fayetteville only.

7 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the City of  
8 Fayetteville is hereby authorized to employ and allow civilian personnel to investigate  
9 traffic crashes. The civilian personnel shall be known as "Civilian Traffic Investigators".

10 **SECTION 3.** The North Carolina Department of Justice, Division of  
11 Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards, shall establish the minimum  
12 standards for employment as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.

13 **SECTION 4.** Each Civilian Traffic Investigator shall attend a training  
14 program designed by the North Carolina Department of Justice, Division of Criminal  
15 Justice Education and Training Standards. Upon completion of the training program, a  
16 Civilian Traffic Investigator shall spend not less than four weeks of field training with a  
17 law enforcement officer who is a certified traffic crash investigator and has experience  
18 conducting traffic crash investigations.

19 **SECTION 5.** Each Civilian Traffic Investigator shall be issued credentials  
20 by the City of Fayetteville identifying the individual as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.  
21 The Civilian Traffic Investigator shall produce official credentials at any time when  
22 requested by a member of the public involved in or as a witness to a crash. A Civilian  
23 Traffic Investigator shall be issued a uniform that is substantially different in color and  
24 style from that of a law enforcement officer for the City of Fayetteville. Civilian Traffic  
25 Investigators shall not be issued badges.

26 **SECTION 6.** Any vehicles issued to, or used by, a Civilian Traffic  
27 Investigator shall not bear markings or symbols that identify the vehicle as a police  
28 vehicle. The vehicle may have emergency equipment and lights installed but shall not  
29 use blue lights in any manner or form. Red and amber lights are permissible.

1           **SECTION 7.** Civilian Traffic Investigators shall investigate only crashes  
2 involving property damage. A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall comply with all  
3 provisions of G.S. 20-166.1. However, a report completed by a Civilian Traffic  
4 Investigator shall be treated the same as if it were completed by a law enforcement  
5 officer for the purposes of evidence and trial pursuant to G.S. 20-166.1(i). A law  
6 enforcement officer shall investigate any crash involving personal injury or a fatality.

7           **SECTION 8.** A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall have no authority to arrest  
8 or issue criminal process. They shall not be issued a weapon of any type. An assault on  
9 a Civilian Traffic Investigator is a violation of G.S. 14-33(b)(4).

10          **SECTION 9.** A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall have the same authority as  
11 a law enforcement officer to tow or remove a vehicle that is obstructing a public street  
12 or highway.

13          **SECTION 10.** This act is effective when it becomes law.