

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 226  
State and Local Government Committee Substitute Adopted 5/16/07**

Short Title: Wilmington Civilian Traffic Investigators.

(Local)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 21, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** This act applies to the City of Wilmington only.

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

9 **SECTION 3.** The City of Wilmington shall establish the minimum standards  
10 for employment as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.

11 **SECTION 4.** Each Civilian Traffic Investigator shall attend a training  
12 program designed by Cape Fear Community College, Office of Continuing Education  
13 for Law Enforcement Training, in consultation with the North Carolina Justice  
14 Academy. Upon completion of the training program, a Civilian Traffic Investigator  
15 shall spend not less than four weeks of field training with a law enforcement officer  
16 who has experience conducting traffic crash investigations.

17 **SECTION 5.** Each Civilian Traffic Investigator shall be issued credentials  
18 by the City of Wilmington identifying the individual as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.  
19 The Civilian Traffic Investigator shall produce official credentials at any time when  
20 requested by a member of the public involved in or as a witness to a crash. A Civilian  
21 Traffic Investigator shall be issued a uniform that is substantially different in color and  
22 style from that of a law enforcement officer for the City of Wilmington. The uniform  
23 shall have patches that clearly identify the individual as a Civilian Traffic Investigator.  
24 The individual's name shall be clearly displayed on the uniform. 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 crashes  
2 involving only property damage. A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall comply with all  
3 provisions of G.S. 20-166.1. A report completed by a Civilian Traffic Investigator shall  
4 be treated the same as if it were completed by a law enforcement officer for the  
5 purposes of G.S. 20-166.1(i). A law enforcement officer shall investigate any crash  
6 involving personal injury or a fatality.

7           **SECTION 8.** A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall have no authority to arrest  
8 or issue criminal process. A Civilian Traffic Investigator shall not be issued a weapon of  
9 any type.

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.** Not later than December 31, 2008, the City of Wilmington  
14 shall deliver to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice  
15 and Public Safety and the Senate Committee on Appropriations on Justice and Public  
16 Safety a written report on the training and use of Civilian Traffic Investigators for the  
17 period commencing on the effective date of this act and concluding November 1, 2008.

18          **SECTION 11.** This act is effective when it becomes law.