

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS45031-ML-81 (02/11)

Short Title: Required Number of Operating Brake Lights. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Cook (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THAT MOTOR VEHICLES MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE  
3 WORKING STOP LAMP ON EACH SIDE OF THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE AND TO  
4 MAKE OTHER CLARIFYING CHANGES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-129(g) reads as rewritten:

7 "(g) No person shall sell or operate on the highways of the State any motor vehicle,  
8 ~~motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, manufactured after December 31, 1955, 1970,~~ unless it shall  
9 be equipped with a stop lamp on the rear of the vehicle. stop lamps, one on each side of the rear  
10 of the vehicle. No person shall sell or operate on the highways of the State any motorcycle or  
11 motor-driven cycle, manufactured after December 31, 1970, unless it shall be equipped with a  
12 stop lamp on the rear of the motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. The stop lamp lamps shall  
13 ~~display~~ emit, reflect, or display a red or amber light visible from a distance of not less than 100  
14 feet to the rear in normal sunlight, and shall be actuated upon application of the service (foot)  
15 brake. The stop lamp lamps may be incorporated into a unit with one or more other rear lamps."

16 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-129.1 reads as rewritten:

17 "§ 20-129.1. **Additional lighting equipment required on certain vehicles.**

18 In addition to other equipment required by this Chapter, the following vehicles shall be  
19 equipped as follows:

20 (1) On every bus or truck, whatever its size, there shall be the following:

21 On the rear, two reflectors, one at each side, and ~~one stoplight.~~ two stop lamps,  
22 one at each side.

23 (2) On every bus or truck 80 inches or more in overall width, in addition to the  
24 requirements in subdivision (1):

25 On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

26 On the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

27 On each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near  
28 the rear.

29 On each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear.

30 (3) On every truck tractor:

31 On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

32 On the rear, ~~one stoplight.~~ two stop lamps, one at each side.

33 (4) On every trailer or semitrailer having a gross weight of 4,000 pounds or  
34 more:

35 On the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.



- 1 On each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near  
2 the rear.
- 3 On each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear.
- 4 On the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side, also two reflectors, one at  
5 each side, and ~~one stoplight~~ two stop lamps, one at each side.
- 6 (5) On every pole trailer having a gross weight of 4,000 pounds or more:  
7 On each side, one side marker lamp and one clearance lamp which may be in  
8 combination, to show to the front, side and rear.  
9 On the rear of the pole trailer or load, two reflectors, one at each side.
- 10 (6) On every trailer, semitrailer or pole trailer having a gross weight of less than  
11 4,000 pounds:  
12 On the rear, two reflectors, one on each side. If any trailer or semitrailer is so  
13 loaded or is of such dimensions as to obscure the stoplight on the towing  
14 vehicle, then such vehicle shall also be equipped with ~~one stoplight~~ two stop  
15 lamps, one at each side.
- 16 (7) Front clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the  
17 front or on the side near the front of a vehicle shall display or reflect an  
18 amber color.
- 19 (8) Rear clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the  
20 rear or on the sides near the rear of a vehicle shall display or reflect a red  
21 color.
- 22 (9) ~~Brake lights~~ Stop lamps (and/or brake reflectors) on the rear of a motor  
23 vehicle shall ~~have red lenses~~ be constructed so that the light  
24 ~~displayed~~ emitted, reflected, or displayed is ~~red~~ red, except that a motor  
25 vehicle originally manufactured with amber stop lamps may emit, reflect, or  
26 display an amber light. The light illuminating the license plate shall be  
27 white. All other lights shall be white, amber, yellow, clear or red.
- 28 (10) On every trailer and semitrailer which is 30 feet or more in length and has a  
29 gross weight of 4,000 pounds or more, one combination marker lamp  
30 showing amber and mounted on the bottom side rail at or near the center of  
31 each side of the trailer."

32 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.