

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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HOUSE DRH30151-LH-53 (01/27)

Short Title: Amend Eyewitness ID/Show-Up. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Glazier.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION REFORM ACT TO  
3 CLARIFY THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT APPLY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT  
4 OFFICERS WHO ARE EYEWITNESSES, TO CLARIFY THAT A PHOTO LINEUP IS  
5 DIFFERENT FROM A SHOW-UP, AND TO PROVIDE THE PROCEDURE FOR  
6 CONDUCTING A SHOW-UP.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 15A-284.52 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 15A-284.52. Eyewitness identification reform.**

10 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 11 (1) Eyewitness. – A person-person, including a law enforcement officer, whose  
12 identification by sight of another person may be relevant in a criminal  
13 proceeding.
- 14 (2) Filler. – A person or a photograph of a person who is not suspected of an  
15 offense and is included in a lineup.
- 16 (3) Independent administrator. – A lineup administrator who is not participating  
17 in the investigation of the criminal offense and is unaware of which person  
18 in the lineup is the suspect.
- 19 (4) Lineup. – A photo lineup or live lineup.
- 20 (5) Lineup administrator. – The person who conducts a lineup.
- 21 (6) Live lineup. – A procedure in which a group of people is displayed to an  
22 eyewitness for the purpose of determining if the eyewitness is able to  
23 identify the perpetrator of a crime.
- 24 (7) Photo lineup. – A procedure in which an array of photographs is displayed to  
25 an eyewitness for the purpose of determining if the eyewitness is able to  
26 identify the perpetrator of a crime.
- 27 (8) Show-up. - A procedure in which an eyewitness is presented with a single  
28 live suspect for the purpose of determining whether the eyewitness is able to  
29 identify the perpetrator of a crime.
- 30 (9) Show-up administrator. - The person who conducts a show-up.

31 (b) Eyewitness Identification Procedures. – Lineups conducted by State, county, and  
32 other local law enforcement officers shall meet all of the following requirements:

- 33 (1) Prior to the lineup, and as soon as possible after the crime, law enforcement  
34 shall obtain a complete description of the perpetrator from the eyewitness, in  
35 the eyewitness's own words. This statement shall also include information  
36 regarding the conditions under which the eyewitness observed the



1 perpetrator, including location, time, distance, obstructions, lighting, and  
2 weather conditions. The eyewitness shall also be asked if the eyewitness  
3 wears or has had glasses or contact lenses prescribed and whether the  
4 eyewitness was wearing them at the time of the witnessed event.

5 ~~(4)~~(1a) A lineup shall be conducted by an independent administrator or by an  
6 alternative method as provided by subsection (c) of this section.

7 (2) Individuals or photos shall be presented to witnesses sequentially, with each  
8 individual or photo presented to the witness separately, in a previously  
9 determined order, and removed after it is viewed before the next individual  
10 or photo is presented.

11 (3) Before a lineup, the eyewitness shall be instructed that:

- 12 a. The perpetrator might or might not be presented in the lineup,
- 13 b. The lineup administrator does not know the suspect's identity,
- 14 c. The eyewitness should not feel compelled to make an identification,
- 15 d. It is as important to exclude innocent persons as it is to identify the  
16 perpetrator, and
- 17 e. The investigation will continue whether or not an identification is  
18 made.

19 The eyewitness shall acknowledge the receipt of the instructions in writing.  
20 If the eyewitness refuses to sign, the lineup administrator shall note the  
21 refusal of the eyewitness to sign the acknowledgement and shall also sign  
22 the acknowledgement.

23 (4) In a photo lineup, the photograph of the suspect shall be contemporary and,  
24 to the extent practicable, shall resemble the suspect's appearance at the time  
25 of the offense.

26 (5) The lineup shall be composed so that the fillers generally resemble the  
27 eyewitness's description of the perpetrator, while ensuring that the suspect  
28 does not unduly stand out from the fillers. In addition:

- 29 a. All fillers selected shall resemble, as much as practicable, the  
30 eyewitness's description of the perpetrator in significant features,  
31 including any unique or unusual features.
- 32 b. At least five fillers shall be included in a photo lineup, in addition to  
33 the suspect.
- 34 c. At least five fillers shall be included in a live lineup, in addition to  
35 the suspect.
- 36 d. If the eyewitness has previously viewed a photo lineup or live lineup  
37 in connection with the identification of another person suspected of  
38 involvement in the offense, the fillers in the lineup in which the  
39 current suspect participates shall be different from the fillers used in  
40 any prior lineups.

41 (6) If there are multiple eyewitnesses, the suspect shall be placed in a different  
42 position in the lineup or photo array for each eyewitness.

43 (7) In a lineup, no writings or information concerning any previous arrest,  
44 indictment, or conviction of the suspect shall be visible or made known to  
45 the eyewitness.

46 (8) In a live lineup, any identifying actions, such as speech, gestures, or other  
47 movements, shall be performed by all lineup participants.

48 (9) In a live lineup, all lineup participants must be out of view of the eyewitness  
49 prior to the lineup.

50 (10) Only one suspect shall be included in a lineup.

- 1 (11) Nothing shall be said to the eyewitness regarding the suspect's position in the  
2 lineup or regarding anything that might influence the eyewitness's  
3 identification.
- 4 (12) The lineup administrator shall seek and document a clear statement from the  
5 eyewitness, at the time of the identification and in the eyewitness's own  
6 words, as to the eyewitness's confidence level that the person identified in a  
7 given lineup is the perpetrator. The lineup administrator shall separate all  
8 witnesses in order to discourage witnesses from conferring with one another  
9 before or during the procedure. Each witness shall be given instructions  
10 regarding the identification procedures without other witnesses present.
- 11 (13) If the eyewitness identifies a person as the perpetrator, the eyewitness shall  
12 not be provided any information concerning the person before the lineup  
13 administrator obtains the eyewitness's confidence statement about the  
14 selection. There shall not be anyone present during the live lineup or  
15 photographic identification procedures who knows the suspect's identity,  
16 except the eyewitness and counsel as required by law.
- 17 (14) Unless it is not practical, a video record of live identification procedures  
18 shall be made. If a video record is not practical, the reasons shall be  
19 documented, and an audio record shall be made. If neither a video nor audio  
20 record are practical, the reasons shall be documented, and the lineup  
21 administrator shall make a written record of the lineup.
- 22 (15) Whether video, audio, or in writing, the record shall include all of the  
23 following information:
- 24 a. All identification and nonidentification results obtained during the  
25 identification procedure, signed by the eyewitness, including the  
26 eyewitness's confidence statement. If the eyewitness refuses to sign,  
27 the lineup administrator shall note the refusal of the eyewitness to  
28 sign the results and shall also sign the notation.
- 29 b. The names of all persons present at the lineup.
- 30 c. The date, time, and location of the lineup.
- 31 d. The words used by the eyewitness in any identification, including  
32 words that describe the eyewitness's certainty of identification.
- 33 e. Whether it was a photo lineup or live lineup and how many photos or  
34 individuals were presented in the lineup.
- 35 f. The sources of all photographs or persons used.
- 36 g. In a photo lineup, the photographs themselves.
- 37 h. In a live lineup, a photo or other visual recording of the lineup that  
38 includes all persons who participated in the lineup.
- 39 (c) Alternative Methods for Identification if Independent Administrator Is Not Used. –  
40 In lieu of using an independent administrator, a photo lineup eyewitness identification  
41 procedure may be conducted using an alternative method specified and approved by the North  
42 Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Any alternative  
43 method shall be carefully structured to achieve neutral administration and to prevent the  
44 administrator from knowing which photograph is being presented to the eyewitness during the  
45 identification procedure. Alternative methods may include any of the following:
- 46 (1) Automated computer programs that can automatically administer the photo  
47 lineup directly to an eyewitness and prevent the administrator from seeing  
48 which photo the witness is viewing until after the procedure is completed.
- 49 (2) A procedure in which photographs are placed in folders, randomly  
50 numbered, and shuffled and then presented to an eyewitness such that the

- 1 administrator cannot see or track which photograph is being presented to the  
2 witness until after the procedure is completed.
- 3 (3) Any other procedures that achieve neutral administration.
- 4 (c1) Show-Up Procedures.— A show-up conducted by State, county, and other local law  
5 enforcement officers shall meet all of the following requirements:
- 6 (1) A show-up shall only be conducted when a suspect matching the description  
7 of the perpetrator is located in close proximity in time and place to the  
8 crime, and only if there are exigent circumstances that require the immediate  
9 display of a suspect to an eyewitness.
- 10 (2) A show-up shall only be performed using a live suspect, and shall not be  
11 conducted with a photograph.
- 12 (3) Prior to the show-up, and as soon as possible after the crime, law  
13 enforcement shall obtain a complete description of the perpetrator from the  
14 eyewitness, in the eyewitness's own words. This statement shall also include  
15 information regarding the conditions under which the eyewitness observed  
16 the perpetrator, including location, time, distance, obstructions, lighting, and  
17 weather conditions. The eyewitness shall also be asked whether the  
18 eyewitness wears or has had glasses or contact lenses prescribed and  
19 whether the eyewitness was wearing them at the time of the witnessed event.
- 20 (4) Eyewitnesses shall be separated and shall not be allowed to communicate  
21 with each other before or during the show-up procedure. Each eyewitness  
22 shall be given instructions regarding the identification procedures without  
23 other witnesses present.
- 24 (5) Whenever practical, the eyewitness shall be transported to the location of the  
25 suspect, rather than bringing the suspect to the eyewitness.
- 26 (6) Before a show-up, the eyewitness shall be given the instructions set out  
27 below in this subdivision. The eyewitness shall acknowledge the receipt of  
28 the instructions in writing. If the eyewitness refuses to sign, the lineup  
29 administrator shall note the refusal of the eyewitness to sign the  
30 acknowledgement and shall also sign the acknowledgement. The instructions  
31 to be given to the eyewitness are all of the following:
- 32 a. The perpetrator may or may not be the person being presented.  
33 b. The eyewitness shall not feel compelled to make identification.  
34 c. It is as important to exclude innocent persons as it is to identify the  
35 perpetrator.  
36 d. The investigation will continue whether or not an identification is  
37 made.
- 38 (7) The show-up administrator shall seek and document a clear statement from  
39 the eyewitness, at the time of the identification and in the eyewitness's own  
40 words, as to the eyewitness's confidence level that the person identified in a  
41 given show-up is the perpetrator.
- 42 (8) Investigators shall photograph a suspect at the time and place of the show-up  
43 to preserve a record of the appearance of the suspect at the time of the  
44 show-up procedure.
- 45 (d) Remedies. – All of the following shall be available as consequences of compliance  
46 or noncompliance with the requirements of this section:
- 47 (1) Failure to comply with any of the requirements of this section shall be  
48 considered by the court in adjudicating motions to suppress eyewitness  
49 identification.

- 1           (2)    Failure to comply with any of the requirements of this section shall be  
2                   admissible in support of claims of eyewitness misidentification, as long as  
3                   such evidence is otherwise admissible.  
4           (3)    When evidence of compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of  
5                   this section has been presented at trial, the jury shall be instructed that it may  
6                   consider credible evidence of compliance or noncompliance to determine the  
7                   reliability of eyewitness identifications."

8           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective August 1, 2015, and applies to eyewitness  
9    identifications and show-ups conducted on or after that date.