



CHAPTER 20

ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-135.2A.

(See Editor's note) Seat belt use mandatory.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2022-47, s. 14 — nineteenth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 05:52 UTC	393a9c1f8f620f5629da66d2 - 3a6a5f209679acaf1023994e - 0a131b3e2b02bfbf

§ 20-135.2A(a) Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 20-137.1, each occupant of a motor vehicle manufactured with seat belts shall have a seatbelt properly fastened about his or her body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion on a street or highway in this State.

§ 20-135.2A(b) Repealed by Session Laws 2006-140, s. 1, effective December 1, 2006.

§ 20-135.2A(c) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A driver or occupant of a noncommercial motor vehicle with a medical or physical condition that prevents appropriate restraint by a safety belt or with a professionally certified mental phobia against the wearing of vehicle restraints.
- (2) A motor vehicle operated by a rural letter carrier of the United States Postal Service while performing duties as a rural letter carrier and a motor vehicle operated by a newspaper delivery person while actually engaged in delivery of newspapers along the person's specified route.
- (3) A driver or passenger frequently stopping and leaving the vehicle or delivering property from the vehicle if the speed of the vehicle between stops does not exceed 20 miles per hour.
- (4) Any vehicle registered and licensed as a property-carrying vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-88, while being used for agricultural purposes in intrastate commerce.

- (5) A motor vehicle not required to be equipped with seat safety belts under federal law.
- (6) Any occupant of a motor home, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)k, other than the driver and front seat passengers.
- (7) Any occupant, while in the custody of a law enforcement officer, being transported in the backseat of a law enforcement vehicle.
- (8) A passenger of a residential garbage or recycling truck while the truck is operating during collection rounds.

§ 20-135.2A(d) Evidence of failure to wear a seat belt shall not be admissible in any criminal or civil trial, action, or proceeding except in an action based on a violation of this section or as justification for the stop of a vehicle or detention of a vehicle operator and passengers.

§ 20-135.2A(d1) Failure of a rear seat occupant of a vehicle to wear a seat belt shall not be justification for the stop of a vehicle.

§ 20-135.2A(e) Any driver or front seat passenger who fails to wear a seat belt as required by this section shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a penalty of twenty-five dollars and fifty cents (\$25.50) plus the following court costs:

INFRACTION

- (1) The General Court of Justice fee provided for in G.S. 7A-304(a)(4).
- (2) The fee provided for in G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a).
- (3) One dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) to be remitted to the county wherein the infraction was issued, except in those cases in which the infraction was issued by a law enforcement officer employed by a municipality, the fee shall be paid to the municipality employing the officer.
- (4) One dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for the supplemental pension benefits of sheriffs to be remitted to the Department of Justice and administered under the provisions of Article 12H of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

Any rear seat occupant of a vehicle who fails to wear a seat belt as required by this section shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00) and no court costs. Conviction of an infraction under this section has no other consequence.

§ 20-135.2A(f)

No drivers license points or insurance surcharge shall be assessed on account of violation of this section.

§ 20-135.2A(g)

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Public Instruction shall incorporate in driver education programs and driver licensing programs instructions designed to encourage compliance with this section as an important means of reducing the severity of injury to the users of restraint devices and on the requirements and penalties specified in this law.

§ 20-135.2A(h)

Repealed by Session Laws 1999-183, s. 3, effective October 1, 1999.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
19 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1985	c. 222, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1987	c. 623	AMENDED
03	1991	c. 448, s. 1	AMENDED
04	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 5, s. 1	AMENDED
05	1997	S.L. 1997-16, s. 2	AMENDED
06	1997	S.L. 1997-443, s. 32.20	AMENDED
07	1999	S.L. 1999-183, ss. 1-3	AMENDED
08	2002	S.L. 2002-126, s. 29A.3(a)	AMENDED
09	2005	S.L. 2005-276, s. 43.1(g)	AMENDED
10	2006	S.L. 2006-66, s. 21.11	AMENDED
11	2006	S.L. 2006-140, s. 1	AMENDED
12	2006	S.L. 2006-221, s. 21(a)	AMENDED
13	2007	S.L. 2007-289, s. 1	AMENDED

14	2007	S.L. 2007-404, s. 2	AMENDED
15	2009	S.L. 2009-376, s. 12	AMENDED
16	2009	S.L. 2009-451, s. 15.20(j)	AMENDED
17	2017	S.L. 2017-102, s. 5.2(b)	AMENDED
18	2022	S.L. 2022-6, s. 8.3(a)	AMENDED
19	2022	S.L. 2022-47, s. 14	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
5 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 20-137.1	(a)	<i>"Except as otherwise provided in"</i>
G.S. 20-88	(c)(4)	<i>"a property-carrying vehicle in accordance with"</i>
G.S. 20-4.01(27)	(c)(6)	<i>"a motor home, as defined in"</i>
G.S. 7A-304(a)(4)	(e)(1)	<i>"of Justice fee provided for in"</i>
G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a)	(e)(2)	<i>"The fee provided for in"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-135.2A (2022).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-135.2A(a) (2022).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

This document reproduces the text of one section of the General Statutes of North Carolina from a source file whose SHA-256 digest is printed on every page. The digest fixes the bytes this export was made from; if the State's file changes, the digest will not match.

The text of the section is unaltered. Subsection designators have been moved from the run of text into the margin. The amendment history and the table of authorities are derived from the section by mechanical extraction — they add no characterization of the law.

This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1985, c. 222, s. 1; 1987, c. 623; 1991, c. 448, s. 1; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 5, s. 1; 1997-16, s. 2; 1997-443, s. 32.20; 1999-183, ss. 1-3; 2002-126, s. 29A.3(a); 2005-276, s. 43.1(g); 2006-66, s. 21.11; 2006-140, s. 1; 2006-221, s. 21(a); 2007-289, s. 1; 2007-404, s. 2; 2009-376, s. 12; 2009-451, s. 15.20(j); 2017-102, s. 5.2(b); 2022-6, s. 8.3(a); 2022-47, s. 14.)

SET IN SPECTRAL AND ARCHIVO
NORTH CAROLINA LAW — STATUTE EXPORT, FORMAT V1

