



CHAPTER 20
ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-140.

Reckless driving.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2025-71, s. 6(a) — fifteenth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:35 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT f96967451e995c9197da608f - 9b54d163f023fdea311235e2 - 406895d5848e923c
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§ 20-140(a) Any person who drives any vehicle upon a highway or any public vehicular area carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others shall be guilty of reckless driving.

§ 20-140(b) Any person who drives any vehicle upon a highway or any public vehicular area without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property shall be guilty of reckless driving.

§ 20-140(c) Repealed by Session Laws 1983, c. 435, s. 23.

§ 20-140(d) Reckless driving as defined in subsections (a) and (b) is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

§ 20-140(e) Repealed by Session Laws 1983, c. 435, s. 23.

§ 20-140(f) A person is guilty of the Class 2 misdemeanor of reckless driving if the person drives a commercial motor vehicle carrying a load that is subject to the permit requirements of G.S. 20-119 upon a highway or any public vehicular area either:

- (1) Carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others; or
- (2) Without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

§ 20-140(g)

Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if the reckless driving causes serious injury.

§ 20-140(h)

CLASS A1
MISDEMEANOR

Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor if the reckless driving causes serious bodily injury as defined in G.S. 14-32.4.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
15 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	1937	c. 407, s. 102	ENACTED
02	1957	c. 1368, s. 1	AMENDED
03	1959	c. 1264, s. 8	AMENDED
04	1973	c. 1330, s. 3	AMENDED
05	1979	c. 903, ss. 7, 8	AMENDED
06	1981	c. 412, s. 4	AMENDED
07	1981	c. 466, s. 7	AMENDED
08	1981	c. 747, s. 66	AMENDED
09	1983	c. 435, s. 23	AMENDED
10	1985	c. 764, s. 28	AMENDED
11	1985	1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 852, s. 17	AMENDED
12	1993	c. 539, s. 365	AMENDED
13	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED
14	2000	S.L. 2000-109, s. 7(b)	AMENDED
15	2025	S.L. 2025-71, s. 6(a)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
2 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. 20-119	(f)	"subject to the permit requirements of"
G.S. 14-32.4	(h)	"serious bodily injury as defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-140 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-140(a) (2025).

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

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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

(1937, c. 407, s. 102; 1957, c. 1368, s. 1; 1959, c. 1264, s. 8; 1973, c. 1330, s. 3; 1979, c. 903, ss. 7, 8; 1981, c. 412, s. 4; c. 466, s. 7; c. 747, s. 66; 1983, c. 435, s. 23; 1985, c. 764, s. 28; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 852, s. 17; 1993, c. 539, s. 365; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2000-109, s. 7(b); 2025-71, s. 6(a).)

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