



CHAPTER 20
ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-149.

Overtaking a vehicle.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2016-90, s. 5.5(b) — sixth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:02 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT b0d49a7bb99261638ba380a1 - 78390bf3f836f444e476a9c9 - eb6269c355df8936
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§ 20-149(a) The driver of any such vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at least two feet to the left thereof, and shall not again drive to the right side of the highway until safely clear of such overtaken vehicle. This subsection shall not apply when the overtaking and passing is done pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 20-150(e) or G.S. 20-150.1.

§ 20-149(b) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle while being lawfully overtaken on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

INFRACTION

Failure to comply with this subsection:

- (1) Is a Class 1 misdemeanor when the failure is the proximate cause of a collision resulting in serious bodily injury.
- (2) Is a Class 2 misdemeanor when the failure is the proximate cause of a collision resulting in bodily injury or property damage.
- (3) Is, in all other cases, an infraction.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
6 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.

	1937				1977				2016
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT									
Nº	YEAR	ACT				CHARACTER			
01	1937	c. 407, s. 111				ENACTED			
02	1955	c. 913, s. 3				AMENDED			
03	1959	c. 247				AMENDED			
04	1973	c. 1330, s. 15				AMENDED			
05	1995	c. 283, s. 1				AMENDED			
06	2016	S.L. 2016-90, s. 5.5(b)				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. 20-150(e)	(a)	<i>"done pursuant to the provisions of"</i>
G.S. 20-150.1	(a)	<i>"the provisions of G.S. 20-150(e) or"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-149 (2016).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-149(a) (2016).

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. 111; 1955, c. 913, s. 3; 1959, c. 247; 1973, c. 1330, s. 15; 1995, c. 283, s. 1; 2016-90, s. 5.5(b).)

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