

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 138  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/19/23

Short Title: Failure to Yield to Blind Pedestrians/Penalty.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 20, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY  
3 TO A BLIND OR PARTIALLY BLIND PEDESTRIAN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-175.2 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 20-175.2. Right-of-way at crossings, intersections and traffic-control signal points; white**  
7 **cane or guide dog to serve as signal for the blind.**

8 At any street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is not  
9 regulated by a traffic officer or by traffic-control signals, any blind or partially blind pedestrian  
10 shall be entitled to the right-of-way at such crossing or intersection, if such blind or partially  
11 blind pedestrian shall extend before him at arm's length a cane white in color or white tipped with  
12 red, or if such person is accompanied by a guide dog. Upon receiving such a signal, all vehicles  
13 at or approaching such intersection or crossing shall come to a full stop, leaving a clear lane  
14 through which such pedestrian may pass, and such vehicle shall remain stationary until such blind  
15 or partially blind pedestrian has completed the passage of such crossing or intersection. At any  
16 street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is regulated by  
17 traffic-control signals, blind or partially blind pedestrians shall be entitled to the right-of-way if  
18 such person having such cane or accompanied by a guide dog shall be partly across such crossing  
19 or intersection at the time the traffic-control signals change, and all vehicles shall stop and remain  
20 stationary until such pedestrian has completed passage across the intersection or crossing. Any  
21 person who fails to yield the right-of-way to a blind or partially blind pedestrian as required by  
22 this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor."

23 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses  
24 committed on or after that date.



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