

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS15419-LM-177

Short Title: Greensboro Civilian Traffic Investigators/SBE. (Local)

Sponsors: Senators Garrett and Robinson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE CITY OF GREENSBORO TO USE CIVILIAN TRAFFIC  
3 INVESTIGATORS TO INVESTIGATE PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASHES AND TO  
4 ESTABLISH A SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE  
5 DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE CITY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Subchapter F of Chapter V of the Charter of the City of Greensboro,  
8 being Chapter 1137 of the Session Laws of 1959, as amended, is amended by adding a new  
9 Article to read as follows:

10 "ARTICLE 3. CIVILIAN TRAFFIC INVESTIGATORS.

11 "Sec. 580. Civilian Traffic Investigators.

12 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the City may employ and allow civilian  
13 personnel to investigate traffic crashes and issue citations for infractions under Chapter 20 of the  
14 General Statutes related to the traffic crashes investigated. The civilian personnel shall be known  
15 as "Civilian Traffic Investigators."

16 (b) All of the following shall apply to Civilian Traffic Investigators (hereinafter  
17 "Investigator" or "Investigators") employed by the City:

- 18 (1) The City shall establish the minimum standards for employment as an  
19 Investigator.
- 20 (2) Each Investigator shall attend a training program designed by the City of  
21 Greensboro Police Department in consultation with the North Carolina Justice  
22 Academy. Upon completion of the training program, each Investigator shall  
23 spend not less than four weeks of field training with a law enforcement officer  
24 who has experience conducting traffic crash investigations.
- 25 (3) Each Investigator shall be issued credentials by the City identifying the  
26 individual as a Civilian Traffic Investigator. The Investigator shall produce  
27 official credentials at any time when requested by a member of the public  
28 involved in or a witness to a crash.
- 29 (4) Investigators shall be issued a uniform that is substantially different in color  
30 and style from that of a law enforcement officer for the City. The uniform  
31 shall have patches that clearly identify the individual as an Investigator, and  
32 the individual's name shall be clearly displayed on the uniform. Investigators  
33 shall not be issued badges.
- 34 (5) Any vehicles issued to, or used by, an Investigator shall not bear markings or  
35 symbols that identify the vehicle as a police vehicle. The vehicle may have



1 emergency equipment and lights installed but shall not use blue lights in any  
2 manner or form. Red and amber lights are permissible.

3 (6) Investigators shall not be issued a weapon of any type.

4 (7) Investigators shall have no authority to arrest or issue criminal process.

5 (8) Investigators shall investigate crashes involving only property damage.  
6 Investigators shall comply with all provisions of G.S. 20-166.1. A report  
7 completed by an Investigator shall be treated the same as if it were completed  
8 by a law enforcement officer for purposes of G.S. 20-166.1(i). A law  
9 enforcement officer shall investigate any crash involving personal injury or a  
10 fatality.

11 (9) Investigators shall have the same authority as a law enforcement officer to tow  
12 or remove a vehicle that is obstructing a public street or highway."

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** Not later than December 31, 2023, the City of Greensboro shall  
14 submit to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety  
15 and the Senate Committee on Appropriations on Justice and Public Safety a written report on the  
16 training and use of Civilian Traffic Investigators, as authorized in this section, for the period  
17 commencing on the effective date of this act and concluding November 1, 2023.

18 **SECTION 2.** Chapter VII of the Charter of the City of Greensboro, being Chapter  
19 1137 of the Session Laws of 1959, as amended, is amended by adding a new Subchapter to read  
20 as follows:

21 "SUBCHAPTER D. SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

22 "Sec. 7.45. Small Business Enterprise Program.

23 (a) The City may establish a race- and gender-neutral small business enterprise program  
24 to promote the development of small businesses in the Greensboro Metropolitan Statistical Area  
25 and to enhance opportunities for small businesses to participate in City contracts. The City may  
26 define the term "small business enterprise" as appropriate and consistent with the City's  
27 contracting practices. The City may establish bid and proposal specifications that include  
28 subcontracting goals and good-faith effort requirements to enhance participation by small  
29 business enterprises in City contracts. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143-129 and  
30 G.S. 143-131(b), the City may consider a bidder's efforts to comply with small business  
31 enterprise program requirements in its award of City contracts and, if a bidder is determined to  
32 have failed to comply with the requirements, the City may, within its discretion, refuse to award  
33 a contract to the bidder.

34 (b) The small business enterprise program authorized by this section is intended to  
35 supplement and not replace the requirements of G.S. 143-128.2, 143-131(b), or 143-135.5. Any  
36 goals or efforts established to achieve veteran, minority, and women's business participation  
37 consistent with the requirements of G.S. 143-128.2, 143-131(b), or 143-135.5 shall take  
38 precedence over goals for small business enterprise participation established under the program  
39 authorized by this section. A small business enterprise program established pursuant to this  
40 section shall be deemed consistent with the public policy of the State of North Carolina to  
41 promote and utilize small and underutilized business enterprises as set forth in G.S. 143-128.2,  
42 143-128.3, and 143-135.5."

43 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.