

PARKING ON HIGHWAYS--LIGHTING REQUIRED. G.S. 20-134.

The motor vehicle law provides that when a vehicle is parked or stopped on a highway,<sup>1</sup> whether attended or unattended, [during the period from sunset to sunrise] [at a time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible any person on the highway at a distance of 400 feet ahead],<sup>2</sup> there must be displayed one or more white or amber lights visible under normal atmospheric conditions from 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions projecting 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

A violation of this law is negligence within itself.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>As the language of the statute indicates, the statute does not apply to parking or stopping on a city street which is not part of the State highway system. Coleman v. Burris, 265 N.C. 404, 144 S.E.2d 241 (1965).

As to parking or stopping on a street which is part of the State highway system, the statute provides that: "local authorities may provide by ordinance that no lights need be displayed upon any vehicle when parked in accordance with local ordinances upon a highway where there is sufficient light to reveal any person within a distance of two hundred feet upon such highway."

<sup>2</sup>The time for displaying lights is set out in G.S. § 20-129. Note that G.S. 20-129(a)(3) probably does not apply.

<sup>3</sup>See Correll v. Gaskins, 263 N.C. 212, 139 S.E.2d 202 (1964).

