

203.70 PARKING ON HIGHWAYS - LIGHTING REQUIRED.

The motor vehicle law provides that when a vehicle is parked or stopped on a highway,¹ 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],² 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.³

1. 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."

2. The time for displaying lights is set out in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-129. Note that N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-129(a)(3) probably does not apply.

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