



May 13, 2026

Introduction

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), an alliance of consumer, safety, medical, public health and law enforcement groups and insurance companies working together to pass highway and auto safety laws that prevent crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs, supports provisions in House Bill (HB) 1199 to improve traffic safety. Specifically, we support establishing an intelligent speed assistance (ISA) program for “super speeders”, upgrading the ignition interlock device (IID) law to apply to all drunk driving offenders, including those who refuse to submit to a chemical analysis, and enabling expanded use of automated enforcement by localities in school zones. These safety upgrades are critical and timely.

Speeding

The Issue:

- Speeding is a major contributor to crashes in North Carolina. In 2024, speeding was a factor in 42 percent of fatal crashes in the state, much higher than the national average of 29 percent, and resulted in 676 tragic deaths.¹
- There were 1,619 traffic fatalities in North Carolina in 2024 which is a 17 percent increase from 2015.²
- Speeding-related fatalities increased 24 percent from 2015 to 2024.³

The Solution: ISA for “Super Speeders”

- Active ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and limit the speed of vehicles exceeding the specified threshold. ISA is urgently needed because excess speed contributes to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes and proves especially dangerous for vulnerable road users (VRUs) such as pedestrians, bicyclists, construction crews and roadside first responders who lack the protective structure of a vehicle.
- Active ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and limit the speed of vehicles exceeding the specified threshold. A recent study on an ISA pilot program in New York City which involved 500 city fleet vehicles and over 2.9 million miles of driving showed ISA produced a 64 percent reduction in overall time spent speeding (more than 11 miles per hour [mph] over limit), including an 82 percent reduction in time spent speeding on higher-speed roads (50 mph).⁴ Due to the program’s success, it is now being expanded to 2,100 vehicles.⁵
- Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety. The average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25 percent at 32 mph, and 50 percent at 42 mph.⁶
- Vehicle occupants are also at risk as crash tests have shown that modest five to 10 mph increases in speed can have a severe impact on a driver’s risk of injury or death.⁷
- A recent poll commissioned by Advocates found that 72 percent of respondents support ISA “super speeder” laws such as HB 2023; among those with a stated position, 89 percent expressed support.⁸
- Washington and Virginia enacted ISA programs in 2025, following the District of Columbia doing so in 2024, and this year many states have considered ISA legislation, including Georgia which recently enacted ISA and Maryland whose governor is expected to sign an ISA bill soon.

Drunk Driving

The Issue:

- In 2024, 449 people were needlessly killed in drunk driving crashes in North Carolina, accounting for 28 percent of traffic fatalities⁹
- Drunk driving related fatalities increased 15 percent from 2015 to 2024.¹⁰
- These tragic, preventable crashes also created a national financial burden of \$69 billion in economic costs in 2019.¹¹ When updated for inflation only, that equates to \$89.2 billion in 2026 dollars.¹²

The Solution: All-offender IID

- IIDs are saving lives. Information from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) on the effectiveness of IIDs notes that IIDs prevented over 3,300 attempts to drive drunk in North Carolina in 2024 alone and nearly 41,000 attempts from 2006 to 2024.
- Research shows that IIDs reduce recidivism with decreases in subsequent arrests ranging from 50 to 90 percent while the IID is installed on the vehicle.¹³
- Most states, including neighboring South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, have all-offender IID laws.
- The American public strongly agrees that the use of IIDs is needed to address this public health crisis. Polling shows 69 to 88 percent of Americans support requiring ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk driving offenders, even if it's their first conviction.¹⁴ Furthermore, 82 percent of drunk driving offenders themselves believe the IID was effective in preventing them from driving after drinking.¹⁵

Automated Enforcement

The Issue:

- VRUs are in danger North Carolina as 19 percent of those killed in traffic crashes in 2024 were a pedestrian, bicyclist or other cyclist.¹⁶
- Pedestrian fatalities rose 45 percent from 2015 to 2024.¹⁷

The Solution: Expanding Automated Enforcement

- Last year the state expanded automated enforcement to curb speeding in school zones. HB 1199 builds on that progress and allows, in school zones, automated enforcement to enforce violations of § 20-158 and § 20-173.
- Allowing automated enforcement in a sensitive area like school zones would improve safety, including for vulnerable school children.

Conclusion

With far too many people losing their lives on North Carolina roads solutions such as those included in HB 1199 are essential. We urge you to support and advance HB 1199 to save lives.

¹ State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>; Overview of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes In 2024, NHTSA, Apr. 2026, DOT HS 813 791, available [here](#).

² State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.

³ State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.

⁴ New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available [here](#).

⁵ New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available [here](#).

⁶ Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available at <https://aaaafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeedReport.pdf>.

⁷ Impact of Speeds on Drivers and Vehicles – Results from Crash Tests, AAA Foundation for Safety, Humanetics, and IIHS, Jan. 2021, available at <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/bibliography/2218>.

⁸ Engine's Caravan Survey Public Opinion Poll, March 2026, available [here](#).

⁹ State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.

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- ¹⁰ State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
- ¹¹ The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, Feb. 2023, DOT HS 813 403, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.
- ¹² CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2026, available at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.
- ¹³ Ignition Interlocks – What You Need to Know: A Toolkit for Policymakers, Highway Safety Professionals, and Advocates Second Edition (updated November 2019), NHTSA, Nov. 2019, DOT HS 811 883, available [here](#).
- ¹⁴ MADD, How Technology Has Stopped 1.77 Million Drunk Drivers: A State by State Guide to Creating a Future of No More Victims, February 10, 2016; available at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/57396/4/>.
- ¹⁵ Morse, BJ and DS Elliott. Hamilton County Drinking and Driving Study: 30 Month Report. Boulder, Colorado: University of Colorado, 1990.
- ¹⁶ State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
- ¹⁷ State Traffic Safety Information for North Carolina, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.