

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 418
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/8/09

Short Title: Drivers License Changes/Older Drivers.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 5, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO DRIVERS LICENSE RENEWAL PERIODS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-7(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Tests. – To demonstrate physical and mental ability, a person must pass an examination. The examination may include road tests, vision tests, oral tests, and, in the case of literate applicants, written tests, as the Division may require. The tests must ensure that an applicant recognizes the handicapped international symbol of access, as defined in G.S. 20-37.5. ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Division may not require a person who applies to renew a license that has not expired to take a written test or a road test unless one or more of the following applies:

- (1) The person has been convicted of a traffic violation since the person's license was last issued.
- (2) The applicant suffers from a mental or physical condition that impairs the person's ability to drive a motor vehicle.

The Division may require any person who is at least 85 years old to take a road test. The Division may not require a person who is at least 60 years old to parallel park a motor vehicle as part of a road test."

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-7(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Duration and Renewal of Licenses. – Drivers licenses shall be issued and renewed pursuant to the provisions of this subsection:

- (1) Duration of license for persons under age 18. – A full provisional license issued to a person under the age of 18 expires on the person's twenty-first birthday.
- (2) Duration of original license for persons at least 18 years of age or older. – A drivers license issued to a person at least 18 years old but less than ~~54~~65 years old expires on the birthday of the licensee in the eighth year after issuance. A drivers license issued to a person at least ~~54~~65 years old expires on the birthday of the licensee in the fifth year after issuance. A commercial drivers license that has a vehicles carrying passengers (P) and school bus (S) endorsement issued pursuant to G.S. 20-37.16 shall expire on the birth date of the licensee three years after the date of issuance, if the licensee is certified to drive a school bus in North Carolina.
- (2a) Duration of renewed licenses. – A renewed drivers license that was issued by the Division to a person at least 18 years old but less than ~~54~~65 years old expires eight years after the expiration date of the license that is renewed. A renewed drivers license that was issued by the Division to a person at least



1 54-65 years old expires five years after the expiration date of the license that
2 is renewed.

3 (3) Duration of license for certain other drivers. – The durations listed in
4 subdivisions (1), (2) and (2a) of this subsection are valid unless the Division
5 determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued when the
6 applicant holds valid documentation issued by, or under the authority of, the
7 United States government that demonstrates the applicant's legal presence of
8 limited duration in the United States. In no event shall a license of limited
9 duration expire later than the expiration of the authorization for the
10 applicant's legal presence in the United States.

11 (3a) When to renew. – A person may apply to the Division to renew a license
12 during the 180-day period before the license expires. The Division may not
13 accept an application for renewal made before the 180-day period begins.

14 (4) Renewal by mail. – The Division may renew by mail a drivers license issued
15 by the Division to a person who meets any of the following descriptions:

16 a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and
17 is stationed outside this State.

18 b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside the State for
19 at least 30 continuous days.

20 When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the examination
21 that would otherwise be required for the renewal and may impose any
22 conditions it finds advisable. A license renewed by mail is a temporary
23 license that expires 60 days after the person to whom it is issued returns to
24 this State.

25 (5) License to be sent by mail. – The Division shall issue to the applicant a
26 temporary driving certificate valid for 20 days, unless the applicant is
27 applying for renewal by mail under subdivision (4) of this subsection. The
28 temporary driving certificate shall be valid for driving purposes only and
29 shall not be valid for identification purposes. The Division shall produce the
30 applicant's drivers license at a central location and send it to the applicant by
31 first-class mail at the residence address provided by the applicant, unless the
32 applicant is ineligible for mail delivery by the United States Postal Service at
33 the applicant's residence. If the United States Postal Service documents that
34 it does not deliver to the residential address provided by the applicant, and
35 the Division has verified the applicant's residential address by other means,
36 the Division may mail the drivers license to the post office box provided by
37 the applicant. Applicants whose only mailing address prior to July 1, 2008,
38 was a post office box in this State may continue to receive their license at
39 that post office box, provided the applicant's residential address has been
40 verified by the Division."

41 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009, and applies to licenses
42 issued or renewed on or after that date.