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SENATE BILL 490
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Short Title: License to Work.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REVISE CERTAIN LICENSE REVOCATION LAWS TO ENABLE ACCESS
3 TO EMPLOYMENT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5
6 **REVISE REVOCATION FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR PAY FINES AND**
7 **PENALTIES**

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 20-24.1 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 20-24.1. Revocation for failure to appear or pay fine, penalty or costs for motor vehicle**
10 **offenses.**

11 (a) The Division must revoke the driver's license of a person upon receipt of notice from
12 a court that the person was charged with a motor vehicle offense and ~~he~~the person did one of the
13 following:

14 (1) ~~failed~~Failed to appear, after being notified to do so, when the case was called
15 for a trial or ~~hearing~~hearing.

16 (2) ~~failed~~Failed to pay a fine, penalty, or court costs ordered by the court.

17 Revocation orders entered under the authority of this section are effective on the sixtieth day after
18 the order is mailed or personally delivered to the person.

19 (b) ~~A~~Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a license revoked under this
20 section remains revoked until the person whose license has been revoked~~one of the following~~
21 occurs:

22 (1) The person disposes of the charge in the trial division in which ~~he~~the person
23 failed to appear when the case was last called for trial or ~~hearing~~hearing.

24 (2) The person demonstrates to the court that ~~he~~the person is not the person
25 charged with the ~~offense~~offense.

26 (3) The person pays the penalty, fine, or costs ordered by the ~~court~~court.

27 (4) The person demonstrates to the court that ~~his~~the person's failure to pay the
28 penalty, fine, or costs was not willful and that ~~he~~the person is making a good
29 faith effort to pay or that the penalty, fine, or costs should be remitted.

30 (5) The court orders any outstanding penalty, fine, or costs be made a civil
31 judgment pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

32 Upon receipt of notice from the court that the person has satisfied the conditions of this subsection
33 applicable to his case, the Division must restore the person's license as provided in subsection
34 ~~(e)~~(c) of this section. In addition, if the person whose license is revoked is not a resident of this



1 State, the Division may notify the driver licensing agency in the person's state of residence that
2 the person's license to drive in this State has been revoked.

3 (b1) A defendant must be afforded an opportunity for a trial or a hearing within a
4 reasonable time of the defendant's appearance. Upon motion of a defendant, the court must order
5 that a hearing or a trial be heard within a reasonable time.

6 (c) If the person satisfies the conditions of subsection (b) of this section, that are
7 applicable to ~~his~~ the person's case before the effective date of the revocation order, the revocation
8 order and any entries on ~~his~~ the person's driving record relating to it shall be deleted and the
9 person does not have to pay the restoration fee set by G.S. 20-7(i1). ~~For~~ Except as otherwise
10 provided in subsection (g) of this section, for all other revocation orders issued pursuant to this
11 section, G.S. 50-13.12 or G.S. 110-142.2, the person must pay the restoration fee and satisfy any
12 other applicable requirements of this Article before the person may be relicensed.

13 (d) To facilitate the prompt return of licenses and to prevent unjustified charges of driving
14 while license revoked, the clerk of court, upon request, must give the person a copy of the notice
15 it sends to the Division to indicate that the person has complied with the conditions of subsection
16 ~~(b)~~ (b) of this section, applicable to his case. If the person complies with the condition before the
17 effective date of the revocation, the notice must indicate that the person is eligible to drive if ~~he~~
18 the person is otherwise validly licensed.

19 (e) As used in this section and in G.S. 20-24.2, the word offense includes crimes and
20 infractions created by this Chapter.

21 (f) If a license is revoked under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, and for
22 no other reason, the person subject to the order may apply to the court for a limited driving
23 privilege valid for up to one year or until any fine, penalty, or court costs ordered by the court
24 are paid. The court may grant the limited driving privilege in the same manner and under the
25 terms and conditions prescribed in G.S. 20-16.1. A person is eligible to apply for a limited driving
26 privilege under this subsection only if the person has not had a limited driving privilege granted
27 under this subsection within the three years prior to application.

28 (g) Except for a revocation order entered under this section resulting from a charge of
29 impaired driving, the Division shall lift a revocation for failure to appear pursuant to subdivision
30 (1) of subsection (a) of this section 12 months after the effective date of revocation if the person
31 furnishes proof to the satisfaction of the Division that the person is maintaining financial
32 responsibility as provided in G.S. 20-279.21. Any person whose drivers license was
33 unencumbered pursuant to this subsection who drives any motor vehicle on the highways of the
34 State without maintaining financial responsibility is guilty of failure to maintain financial
35 responsibility pursuant to G.S. 20-313 and driving while license revoked pursuant to
36 G.S. 20-28(a4).

37 (h) A person may petition the court to order any penalty, fine, or costs which have
38 resulted in a revocation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for at least
39 12 months from the revocation's effective date and are not related to a conviction for an offense
40 involving impaired driving be made a civil judgment. The court shall grant the petition if the
41 person can show that the person has had no conviction for any traffic offense in the 12 months
42 prior to the petition."

43 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 20-7(i1) reads as rewritten:

44 "(i1) Restoration Fee. – Any person whose drivers license has been revoked pursuant to
45 the provisions of this Chapter, other than G.S. 20-17(a)(2) shall pay a restoration fee of sixty five
46 dollars (\$65.00). A person whose drivers license has been revoked under G.S. 20-17(a)(2) shall
47 pay a restoration fee of one hundred thirty dollars (\$130.00). The fee shall be paid to the Division
48 prior to the issuance to such person of a new drivers license or the restoration of the drivers
49 license. The restoration fee shall be paid to the Division in addition to any and all fees which may
50 be provided by law. This restoration fee shall not be required from any licensee whose license
51 was revoked or voluntarily surrendered for medical or health reasons whether or not a medical

1 evaluation was conducted pursuant to this Chapter. The sixty five dollar (\$65.00) fee, and the
2 first one hundred five dollars (\$105.00) of the one hundred thirty dollar (\$130.00) fee, shall be
3 deposited in the Highway Fund. Twenty five dollars (\$25.00) of the one hundred thirty dollar
4 (\$130.00) fee shall be used to fund a statewide chemical alcohol testing program administered
5 by the Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section of the
6 Department of Health and Human Services. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
7 restoration fee assessed pursuant to this subsection may be waived by the Division when (i) the
8 restoration fee remains unpaid for more than 10 years from the date of assessment and (ii) the
9 person responsible for payment of the restoration fee has been issued a drivers license by the
10 Division after the effective date of the revocation for which the restoration fee is owed. The
11 Division may also waive restoration fees and other service fees upon a finding by the
12 Commissioner that the license holder has shown good cause for not being able to pay the fine.
13 The Office of State Budget and Management shall annually report to the General Assembly the
14 amount of fees deposited in the General Fund and transferred to the Forensic Tests for Alcohol
15 Branch of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section of the Department of Health and Human
16 Services under this subsection."

17 **SECTION 1.(c)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to
18 revocations and suspensions before, on, or after that date.

19
20 **REVISE REVOCATION FOR MOVING OFFENSE COMMITTED WHILE LICENSE**
21 **SUSPENDED OR REVOKED**

22 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 20-28.1 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 20-28.1. Conviction of moving offense committed while driving during period of**
24 **suspension or revocation of license.**

25 (a) Upon receipt of notice of conviction of any person of a motor vehicle moving offense,
26 such offense having been committed while such person's driving privilege was in a state of
27 suspension or revocation, the Division shall revoke such person's driving privilege for an
28 additional period of time as set forth in ~~subsection (b) hereof.~~ subsection (b) of this section. For
29 purposes of this section a violation of G.S. 20-7(a), 20-24.1, or 20-28(a) or (a2) shall not be
30 considered a "motor vehicle moving offense" unless the offense occurred in a commercial motor
31 vehicle or the person held a commercial drivers license at the time of the offense. A violation of
32 G.S. 20-313 is considered a "motor vehicle moving offense" for the purposes of this section.

33 (b) When a driving privilege is subject to revocation under this section, the additional
34 period of revocation shall be as follows:

- 35 (1) ~~A first such revocation shall be for one year.~~ For a first offense under this
36 section, there is no additional period of revocation.
37 (2) ~~A second such revocation shall be for two years; and~~ For a second offense
38 under this section, the additional period of revocation is one year.
39 (3) ~~A third or subsequent such revocation shall be permanent.~~ For a third and
40 subsequent offense under this section, the additional period of revocation is
41 two years, except that if the person committed the offense while the person's
42 driving privilege was revoked or suspended for impaired driving, the
43 revocation is permanent.

44 (c) A person whose license has been revoked under this section for one year may apply
45 for a license after 90 days. A person whose license has been revoked under this section for two
46 years may apply for a license after 12 months. A person whose license has been revoked under
47 this section permanently may apply for a license after three years. Upon the filing of an
48 application, the Division may, with or without a hearing, issue a new license upon satisfactory
49 proof that the former licensee has not been convicted of a moving violation under this Chapter
50 or the laws of another state, or a violation of any provision of the alcoholic beverage laws of this
51 State or another state, or a violation of any provision of the drug laws of this State or another

1 state when any of these violations occurred during the revocation period. The Division may
2 impose any restrictions or conditions on the new license that the Division considers appropriate
3 for the balance of the revocation period. When the revocation period is permanent, the restrictions
4 and conditions imposed by the Division may not exceed three years. A person that applies for a
5 license under this subsection must furnish proof to the satisfaction of the Division that the person
6 is maintaining financial responsibility as required by G.S. 20-279.21. Any person whose drivers
7 license was issued pursuant to this subsection who drives any motor vehicle on the highways of
8 the State without maintaining financial responsibility in violation of G.S. 20-313 is guilty of
9 failure to maintain financial responsibility pursuant to G.S. 20-313 and driving while license
10 revoked pursuant to G.S. 20-28(a4).

11"

12 **SECTION 2.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to
13 convictions entered before, on, or after that date.

14 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 20-28 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 20-28. Unlawful to drive while license revoked, after notification, or while disqualified.**

16 (a) Driving While License Revoked. – Except as provided in subsections (a1) or (a2) of
17 this section, any person whose drivers license has been revoked who drives any motor vehicle
18 upon the highways of the State while the license is revoked is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

19 (a1) Driving While License Revoked for Impaired Driving. – Any person whose drivers
20 license has been revoked for an impaired driving revocation as defined in G.S. 20-28.2(a) and
21 who drives any motor vehicle upon the highways of the State is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
22 Upon conviction, the person's license shall be revoked for an additional period of one year for
23 the first offense, two years for the second offense, and permanently for a third or subsequent
24 offense.

25 If the person's license was originally revoked for an impaired driving revocation, the court
26 may order as a condition of probation that the offender abstain from alcohol consumption and
27 verify compliance by use of a continuous alcohol monitoring system, of a type approved by the
28 Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, for a
29 minimum period of 90 days.

30 The restoree of a revoked drivers license who operates a motor vehicle upon the highways of
31 the State without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law shall be punished as for
32 driving without a license.

33 (a2) Driving Without Reclaiming License. – A person convicted under subsection (a) or
34 (a1) of this section shall be punished as if the person had been convicted of driving without a
35 license under G.S. 20-35 if the person demonstrates to the court that either of the following is
36 true:

- 37 (1) At the time of the offense, the person's license was revoked solely under
38 G.S. 20-16.5 and one of the following applies:
39 a. The offense occurred more than 45 days after the effective date of a
40 revocation order issued under G.S. 20-16.5(f) and the period of
41 revocation was 45 days as provided under subdivision (3) of that
42 subsection; or
43 b. The offense occurred more than 30 days after the effective date of the
44 revocation order issued under any other provision of G.S. 20-16.5.
45 (2) At the time of the offense the person had met the requirements of
46 G.S. 50-13.12, or G.S. 110-142.2 and was eligible for reinstatement of the
47 person's drivers license privilege as provided therein.

48 In addition, a person punished under this subsection shall be treated for drivers license and
49 insurance rating purposes as if the person had been convicted of driving without a license under
50 G.S. 20-35, and the conviction report sent to the Division must indicate that the person is to be
51 so treated.

1 (a3) Driving After Notification or Failure to Appear. – A person shall be guilty of a Class
2 1 misdemeanor if:

- 3 (1) The person operates a motor vehicle upon a highway while that person's
4 license is revoked for an impaired drivers license revocation after the Division
5 has sent notification in accordance with G.S. 20-48; or
6 (2) The person fails to appear for two years from the date of the charge after being
7 charged with an implied-consent offense.

8 Upon conviction, the person's drivers license shall be revoked for an additional period of one
9 year for the first offense, two years for the second offense, and permanently for a third or
10 subsequent offense. The restorer of a revoked drivers license who operates a motor vehicle upon
11 the highways of the State without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law shall
12 be punished as for driving without a license.

13 (a4) Driving After Restoration Without Insurance. – In addition to the penalty for violating
14 G.S. 20-313, a person shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if the person operates a motor
15 vehicle upon a highway without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law after the
16 Division has restored the license pursuant to G.S. 20-24.1(h).

17"

18 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Division of Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules to implement this
19 section and provide a designation for the new offense of Driving After Restoration Without
20 Insurance in the digital platform used by law enforcement.

21 **SECTION 3.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective December 1, 2021,
22 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective
23 when this act becomes law.

24 **SECTION 4.(a)** Section 7 of S.L. 2015-186, as amended by Section 86 of S.L.
25 2015-264, reads as rewritten:

26 "**SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to offenses
27 committed ~~on or, before, or after that date. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the~~
28 ~~effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act, date, and the statutes that would~~
29 be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions."

30 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

31
32 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

33 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
34 law.