

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 791  
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 5/20/99

Short Title: Ten Year Drivers License.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 8, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE GENERAL DRIVERS LICENSE RENEWAL CYCLE  
FROM FIVE TO TEN YEARS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-7(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) License Expiration. ~~Expiration and Temporary License.~~ ~~The first drivers license the Division issues to a person expires on the person's fourth or subsequent birthday that occurs after the license is issued and on which the individual's age is evenly divisible by five, unless this subsection sets a different expiration date. The first drivers license the Division issues to a person who is at least 17 years old but is less than 18 years old expires on the person's twentieth birthday. The first drivers license the Division issues to a person who is at least 62 years old expires on the person's birthday in the fifth year after the license is issued, whether or not the person's age on that birthday is evenly divisible by five.~~

~~A drivers license that was issued by the Division and is renewed by the Division expires five years after the expiration date of the license that is renewed.~~

A drivers license issued to a person at least 16 but less than 18 years of age expires on the person's twentieth birthday. A drivers license issued to a person age 18 but less than age 60 expires 10 years after the date of issuance, or on the person's sixty-fifth birthday,

1 whichever is earlier. A drivers license issued to a person age 60 but less than age 80  
2 expires five years after the date of issuance, or on the person's eightieth birthday,  
3 whichever is earlier. A drivers license issued to a person age 80 or over expires three  
4 years from the date of issuance.

5 (f1) Early renewal. – A person may apply to the Division to renew a license during  
6 the 180-day period before the license expires. The Division may not accept an application  
7 for renewal made before the 180-day period begins.

8 (f2) Temporary license by mail. –

9 (1) The Division may renew by mail a drivers license issued by the  
10 Division to a person who meets any of the following descriptions:

11 (+)a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the  
12 United States and is stationed outside this State.

13 (2)b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside  
14 the State for at least 30 continuous days.

15 (2) When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the  
16 examination that would otherwise be required for the renewal and may  
17 impose any conditions it finds advisable. A license renewed by mail is a  
18 temporary license that expires 60 days after the person to whom it is  
19 issued returns to this State."

20 Section 2. G.S. 20-7 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 "(f3) Consultation. – Any person who holds a drivers license with a duration greater  
22 than five years who has three reportable accidents as defined in G.S. 20-4.01, or is  
23 convicted of three moving violations as specified in G.S. 20-16(c) during any 12-month  
24 period shall be notified by the Division and required to attend a drivers license  
25 consultation at the drivers license office of the person's choice. The Division shall  
26 establish the format of the consultation, which shall include a review of traffic law and  
27 rules, and a review of road signs."

28 Section 3. G.S. 20-37.7(d) reads as rewritten:

29 "(d) Expiration and Fee. – A special identification card issued to a person  
30 ~~for the first time under this section expires when a drivers license issued on the same day to~~  
31 ~~that person would expire five years following the date of issuance. A special identification~~  
32 ~~card renewed under this section expires when a drivers license renewed by the card holder on the~~  
33 ~~same day would expire.~~

34 The fee for a special identification card is the same as the fee set in G.S. 20-14 for a  
35 duplicate license. The fee does not apply to a special identification card issued to a  
36 resident of this State who is legally blind, is at least 70 years old, or is homeless. To  
37 obtain a special identification card without paying a fee, a homeless person must present  
38 a letter to the Division from the director of a facility that provides care or shelter to  
39 homeless persons verifying that the person is homeless."

40 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2000.