

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE BILL 804

Short Title: DMV-NCDL/Registration Extensions.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Finance.

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE
2 DRIVERS LICENSES VALID FOR UP TO EIGHT YEARS AND TO ISSUE
3 REGISTRATION PLATES VALID FOR UP TO TWO YEARS AS
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

8 "(f) Expiration and Temporary License. – The first drivers license the Division
9 issues to a person expires on the person's fourth or subsequent birthday that occurs after
10 the license is issued and on which the individual's age is evenly divisible by five, unless
11 this subsection sets a different expiration date. A first drivers license may be issued for a
12 shorter duration if the Division determines that a license of shorter duration should be
13 issued when the applicant holds a visa of limited duration issued by the United States
14 Department of State. The first drivers license the Division issues to a person who is at
15 least 17 years old but is less than 18 years old expires on the person's twentieth birthday.
16 The first drivers license the Division issues to a person who is at least 62 years old
17 expires on the person's birthday in the fifth year after the license is issued, whether or
18 not the person's age on that birthday is evenly divisible by five.

19 A drivers license that was issued by the Division and is renewed by the Division
20 expires ~~five-eight~~ years after the expiration date of the license that is renewed unless the
21 Division determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued when the
22 applicant holds a visa of limited duration from the United States Department of State. A
23 person may apply to the Division to renew a license during the 180-day period before
24 the license expires. The Division may not accept an application for renewal made before
25 the 180-day period begins.

26 The Division may renew by mail a drivers license issued by the Division to a person
27 who meets any of the following descriptions:

- 28 (1) Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and
29 is stationed outside this State.

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

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

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-66(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) ~~Annual-Biennial~~ Renewal. – The registration of a vehicle ~~must~~ shall be renewed ~~annually~~ every two years. To renew the registration of a vehicle, the owner of the vehicle ~~must~~ shall file an application with the Division and pay the required registration fee. The Division may receive and grant an application for renewal of registration at any time before the registration expires."

SECTION 3. G.S. 20-87 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-87. Passenger vehicle registration fees.

These shall be paid to the Division ~~annually~~, as of the first day of January, for the registration and licensing of passenger vehicles, fees according to the following classifications and ~~schedules~~ schedules, which are based on the applicable annual rate:

(1) For-Hire Passenger Vehicles. – The fee for a passenger vehicle that is operated for compensation and has a capacity of 15 passengers or less is seventy-eight dollars (\$78.00). The fee for a passenger vehicle that is operated for compensation and has a capacity of more than 15 passengers is one dollar and forty cents (\$1.40) per hundred pounds of empty weight of the vehicle.

(2) U-Drive-It Vehicles. – U-drive-it vehicles shall pay the following tax:

Motorcycles:	1-passenger capacity	\$18.00
	2-passenger capacity	22.00
	3-passenger capacity	26.00
Automobiles:	15 or fewer passengers	\$41.00
Buses:	16 or more passengers	\$1.40
		per hundred
		pounds of empty weight

Trucks under 7,000		
pounds that do not haul		
products for hire:	4,000 pounds	\$41.50
	5,000 pounds	\$51.00
	6,000 pounds	\$61.00.

(3) Repealed by Session Laws 1981, c. 976, s. 3.

(4) Limousine Vehicles. – For-hire passenger vehicles on call or demand which do not solicit passengers indiscriminately for hire between points along streets or highways, shall be taxed at the same rate as for-hire passenger vehicles under G.S. 20-87(1) but shall be issued appropriate registration plates to distinguish such vehicles from taxicabs.

- 1 (5) Private Passenger Vehicles. – There shall be paid to the Division
2 annually, as of the first day of January, for the registration and
3 licensing of private passenger vehicles, fees according to the following
4 classifications and schedules:
5 Private passenger vehicles of not more than fifteen
6 passengers \$20.00
7 Private passenger vehicles over fifteen passengers 23.00
8 Provided, that a fee of only one dollar (\$1.00) shall be charged for any
9 vehicle given by the federal government to any veteran on account of
10 any disability suffered during war so long as such vehicle is owned by
11 the original donee or other veteran entitled to receive such gift under
12 Title 38, section 252, United States Code Annotated.
- 13 (6) Private Motorcycles. – The base fee on private passenger motorcycles
14 shall be nine dollars (\$9.00); except that when a motorcycle is
15 equipped with an additional form of device designed to transport
16 persons or property, the base fee shall be sixteen dollars (\$16.00). An
17 additional fee of three dollars (\$3.00) is imposed on each private
18 motorcycle registered under this subdivision in addition to the base
19 fee. The revenue from the additional fee, in addition to any other funds
20 appropriated for this purpose, shall be used to fund the Motorcycle
21 Safety Instruction Program created in G.S. 115D-72.
- 22 (7) Dealer License Plates. – The fee for a dealer license plate is the regular
23 fee for each of the first five plates issued to the same dealer and is
24 one-half the regular fee for each additional dealer license plate issued
25 to the same dealer. The "regular fee" is the fee set in subdivision (5) of
26 this section for a private passenger motor vehicle of not more than 15
27 passengers.
- 28 (8) Driveaway Companies. – Any person engaged in the business of
29 driving new motor vehicles from the place of manufacture to the place
30 of sale in this State for compensation shall pay a fee of one-half of the
31 amount that would otherwise be payable under this section for each set
32 of plates.
- 33 (9) House Trailers. – In lieu of other registration and license fees levied on
34 house trailers under this section or G.S. 20-88, the registration and
35 license fee on house trailers shall be seven dollars (\$7.00) for the
36 license year or any portion thereof.
- 37 (10) Special Mobile Equipment. – The fee for special mobile equipment for
38 the license year or any part of the license year is two times the fee in
39 subdivision (5) for a private passenger motor vehicle of not more than
40 15 passengers.
- 41 (11) Any vehicle fee determined under this section according to the weight
42 of the vehicle shall be increased by the sum of three dollars (\$3.00) to
43 arrive at the total fee.

1 (12) Low-Speed Vehicles. – The fee for a low-speed vehicle is the same as
2 the fee for private passengers vehicles of not more than 15
3 passengers."

4 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.