

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 407  
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/19/13

Short Title: Electronic Vehicle Lien/Title. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO IMPLEMENT A  
3 STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC LIEN SYSTEM TO PROCESS THE NOTIFICATION  
4 AND RELEASE OF SECURITY INTERESTS AND CERTIFICATE OF TITLE DATA.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
7 a new section to read:

8 **"§ 20-58.4A. Electronic lien system.**

9 (a) Implementation. – No later than July 1, 2014, the Division shall implement a  
10 statewide electronic lien system to process the notification, release, and maintenance of security  
11 interests and certificate of title data where a lien is notated, through electronic means instead of  
12 paper documents otherwise required by this Chapter. The Division may contract with a  
13 qualified vendor or vendors to develop and implement this statewide electronic lien system, or  
14 the Division may develop and make available to qualified service providers a well-defined set  
15 of information services that will enable secure access to the data and internal application  
16 components necessary to facilitate the creation of an electronic lien system.

17 (b) Minimum Standards for a Vendor Implemented System. – When contracting with a  
18 qualified vendor or vendors to implement the system required in subsection (a) of this section,  
19 the Division shall set the following minimum standards:

20 (1) The Division shall issue a competitive request for proposal to assess the  
21 qualifications of any vendor or vendors responsible for the establishment and  
22 ongoing support of the statewide electronic lien system. The Division may  
23 also reserve the right to receive input regarding specifications for the  
24 electronic lien system from parties that do not respond to a request for  
25 proposal to establish and operate an electronic lien system.

26 (2) Any contract entered into with a vendor or vendors shall include no costs or  
27 charges payable by the Division to the vendor or vendors. The vendor or  
28 vendors shall reimburse the Division for documented reasonable  
29 implementation costs directly associated with the establishment and ongoing  
30 support of the statewide electronic lien system.

31 (3) Upon implementation of the electronic lien system pursuant to subsection (a)  
32 of this section, the qualified vendor or vendors may charge participating  
33 lienholders or their agents a per-transaction fee for each lien notification.  
34 The per-transaction lien notification fee shall be consistent with market  
35 pricing in an amount not to exceed three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) for  
36 costs associated with the development and ongoing administration of the



1 electronic lien system. The qualified vendor or vendors shall not charge  
2 lienholders or their agents any additional fee for lien releases, assignments,  
3 or transfers. To recover their costs, participating lienholders or their agents  
4 may charge the borrower of a motor vehicle loan or the lessee of an  
5 automotive lease an amount equal to the transaction fee per lien notification  
6 plus a fee in an amount not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) for each  
7 electronic transaction where a lien is notated.

8 (4) A qualified vendor or vendors may also serve as a service provider to  
9 lienholders, if all of the following conditions are met:

10 a. The contract with the vendor must include provisions specifically  
11 prohibiting the vendor from using information concerning vehicle  
12 titles for marketing or business solicitation purposes.

13 b. The contract with the vendor must include an acknowledgment by  
14 the vendor that it is required to enter into agreements to exchange  
15 electronic lien data with any service providers who offer electronic  
16 lien and title services in the State and who have been approved by the  
17 Division for participation in the system and with service providers  
18 who are not qualified vendors.

19 c. The Division must periodically monitor fees charged by a qualified  
20 vendor also serving as a service provider to lienholders and providing  
21 services as a qualified vendor to other service providers to ensure the  
22 vendor is not engaged in predatory pricing.

23 (c) Minimum Standards for Division-Developed System. – If the Division chooses to  
24 develop an interface to enable service provider access to data to facilitate the creation of an  
25 electronic lien system, then the Division shall do so for a cost not to exceed two hundred fifty  
26 thousand dollars (\$250,000) and set the following minimum standards:

27 (1) The Division shall establish qualifications for third-party service providers  
28 offering electronic lien services and establish a qualification process that will  
29 vet applications developed by service providers for compliance with defined  
30 security and architecture standards as follows:

31 a. Qualifications shall be posted within 60 days of the effective date of  
32 this section.

33 b. Interested service providers shall respond by providing qualifications  
34 within 30 days of posting.

35 c. The Division shall notify service providers of their approval.

36 d. Within 30 days of approval, each qualified service provider shall  
37 remit payment in an amount equal to the development costs as a  
38 fraction of the number of qualified service providers participating in  
39 the electronic lien services.

40 e. If there is a service provider who later wishes to participate but did  
41 not apply or pay the initial development costs, then that provider may  
42 apply to participate if the provider meets all qualifications and pays  
43 the same amount in development costs as other participating service  
44 providers.

45 (2) Each qualified service provider shall remit to the Division an annual fee not  
46 to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) on a date prescribed by the  
47 Division to be used for the operation and maintenance of the electronic lien  
48 system.

49 (3) Any contract entered into with a service provider shall include no costs or  
50 charges payable by the Division to the service provider.

1           (4) Upon implementation of the electronic lien system pursuant to subsection (a)  
2           of this section, the service provider may charge participating lienholders or  
3           their agents a per-transaction fee consistent with market pricing.

4           (5) The contract with the service provider must include provisions specifically  
5           prohibiting the service provider from using information concerning vehicle  
6           titles for marketing or business solicitation purposes.

7           (d) Qualified vendors and service providers shall have experience in directly providing  
8           electronic solutions to State motor vehicle departments or agencies.

9           (e) Notwithstanding any requirement in this Chapter that a lien on a motor vehicle shall  
10          be noted on the face of the certificate of title, if there are one or more liens or encumbrances on  
11          the motor vehicle or mobile home, the Division may electronically transmit the lien to the first  
12          lienholder and notify the first lienholder of any additional liens. Subsequent lien satisfactions  
13          may be electronically transmitted to the Division and shall include the name and address of the  
14          person satisfying the lien.

15          (f) When electronic transmission of liens and lien satisfactions is used, a certificate of  
16          title need not be issued until the last lien is satisfied and a clear certificate of title is issued to  
17          the owner of the vehicle.

18          (g) When a vehicle is subject to an electronic lien, the certificate of title for the vehicle  
19          shall be considered to be physically held by the lienholder for purposes of compliance with  
20          State or federal odometer disclosure requirements.

21          (h) A duly certified copy of the Division's electronic record of the lien shall be  
22          admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in this State as evidence of the  
23          existence of the lien.

24          (i) Mandatory Participation. – Beginning July 1, 2015, all individuals and lienholders  
25          who are normally engaged in the business or practice of financing motor vehicles, and who  
26          conduct at least five transactions annually, shall utilize the electronic lien system implemented  
27          in subsection (a) of this section to record information concerning the perfection and release of a  
28          security interest in a vehicle.

29          (j) Effect of Electronic Notice or Release. – An electronic notice or release of a  
30          security interest made through the electronic system implemented pursuant to subsection (a) of  
31          this section shall have the same force and effect as a notice or release on a paper document  
32          provided under G.S. 20-58 through G.S. 20-58.8.

33          (k) Nothing in this section shall preclude the Division from collecting a title fee for the  
34          preparation and issuance of a title."

35          **SECTION 2.** Prior to the statewide implementation of the electronic lien system  
36          pursuant to G.S. 20-58.4A, the Division, along with one or more qualified vendors and up to  
37          five lienholders, may conduct a pilot program of the electronic lien system for a period of up to  
38          90 days.

39          **SECTION 3.** No later than October 1, 2013, the Division shall report to the Chairs  
40          of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on the status of the  
41          implementation of the electronic lien system pursuant to G.S. 20-58.4A. The report shall  
42          include, at a minimum, whether the Division is proceeding with a vendor-implemented system  
43          or Division-implemented system and whether implementation is on schedule and on budget.

44          **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.