

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2487*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/5/08
Third Edition Engrossed 6/19/08
Senate Commerce, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee Substitute
Adopted 7/1/08

Short Title: Change Format of Drivers Licenses/Under 21.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE FORMAT OF A DRIVERS LICENSE OR SPECIAL
2 IDENTIFICATION CARD BEING ISSUED TO A PERSON LESS THAN
3 TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE FROM A HORIZONTAL FORMAT TO A
4 VERTICAL FORMAT TO MAKE RECOGNITION OF UNDERAGE PERSONS
5 MORE EASY FOR CLERKS DEALING IN RESTRICTED AGE SALES OF
6 PRODUCTS SUCH AS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO
7 PRODUCTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE.
8

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

11 "(n) Format. – A drivers license issued by the Division must be tamperproof and
12 must contain all of the following information:

- 13 (1) An identification of this State as the issuer of the license.
- 14 (2) The license holder's full name.
- 15 (3) The license holder's residence address.
- 16 (4) A color photograph of the license holder, taken by the Division.
- 17 (5) A physical description of the license holder, including sex, height, eye
18 color, and hair color.
- 19 (6) The license holder's date of birth.
- 20 (7) An identifying number for the license holder assigned by the Division.
21 The identifying number may not be the license holder's social security
22 number.
- 23 (8) Each class of motor vehicle the license holder is authorized to drive
24 and any endorsements or restrictions that apply.
- 25 (9) The license holder's signature.
- 26 (10) The date the license was issued and the date the license expires.

1 The Commissioner may waive the requirement of a color photograph on a license if
2 the license holder proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that taking the
3 photograph would violate the license holder's religious convictions. In taking
4 photographs of license holders, the Division must distinguish between license holders
5 who are less than 21 years old and license holders who are at least 21 years old by using
6 different color backgrounds or borders for each group. The Division shall determine the
7 different colors to be used. The Commissioner shall ensure that applicants 21 years old
8 or older are issued drivers licenses and special identification cards that are printed in a
9 horizontal format. The Commissioner shall ensure that applicants under the age of 21
10 are issued drivers licenses and special identification cards that are printed in a vertical
11 format, that distinguishes them from the horizontal format, for ease of identification of
12 individuals under age 21 by members of industries that regulate controlled products that
13 are sale restricted by age and law enforcement officers enforcing these laws.

14 At the request of an applicant for a drivers license, a license issued to the applicant
15 must contain the applicant's race."

16 **SECTION 2.** The Office of State Controller, with the support of the Office
17 of State Budget and Management, shall identify and make all efforts to secure any
18 matching funds or other resources to assist in funding this initiative.

19 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2008, and applies to
20 drivers licenses and special identification cards issued or renewed on or after that date.