

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 1891\***  
**Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Substitute Adopted**  
**6/10/08**

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

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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May 22, 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.  
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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.

27 The Commissioner may waive the requirement of a color photograph on a license if  
28 the license holder proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that taking the

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

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

14 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2008, and applies to  
15 drivers licenses and special identification cards issued or renewed on or after that date.