

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 470  
Judiciary II (Criminal) Committee Substitute Adopted 4/17/07

Short Title: Drivers Licenses - Fix Expir./8-Year to 65.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 5, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CORRECT AN APPARENT ERROR IN THE EXPIRATION DATE  
3 FOR DRIVERS LICENSES AND TO INCREASE THE AGE OF PERSONS  
4 RECEIVING AN EIGHT-YEAR DRIVERS LICENSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "§ 20-7. Issuance and renewal of drivers licenses.

8 ...

9 (f) Duration and Renewal of Licenses. – Drivers licenses shall be issued and  
10 renewed pursuant to the provisions of this ~~subsection~~subsection:

11 (1) Duration of license for persons under age 18. – A full provisional  
12 license issued to a person under the age of 18 ~~shall expire~~expires on  
13 the person's twenty-first birthday.

14 (2) Duration of original license for persons at least 18 years of age or  
15 older. – A drivers license issued to a person at least 18 years old but  
16 less than 54 years old expires ~~eight years after the date of issuance~~on  
17 the birthday of the licensee in the eighth year after issuance. A drivers  
18 license issued to a person at least 54 years old expires ~~five years after~~  
19 ~~the date of issuance~~on the birthday of the licensee in the fifth year  
20 after issuance.

21 (2a) Duration of renewed licenses. – A renewed drivers license that was  
22 issued by the Division to a person at least 18 years old but less than 54  
23 years old expires eight years after the expiration date of the license that  
24 is renewed. A renewed drivers license that was issued by the Division  
25 to a person at least 54 years old expires five years after the expiration  
26 date of the license that is renewed.

27 (3) Duration of license~~license~~ for certain other drivers. – ~~A drivers license~~  
28 ~~that was issued by the Division and is renewed by the Division expires~~  
29 ~~at the end of the period provided by this subsection after the expiration~~

~~date of the license that is renewed~~ The durations listed in subdivisions (1), (2), and (2a) of this subsection are valid unless the Division determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued when the applicant holds a visa of limited duration from the United States Department of Homeland Security, but in no event shall the license expire later than the applicant's lawful presence in the United States. A person may apply to the Division to renew a license during the 180-day period before the license expires. The Division may not accept an application for renewal made before the 180-day period begins.

(3a) When to renew. – A person may apply to the Division to renew a license during the 180-day period before the license expires. The Division may not accept an application for renewal made before the 180-day period begins.

(4) **Renewal by mail. –** The Division may renew by mail a drivers license issued by the Division to a person who meets any of the following descriptions:

- a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and is stationed outside this State.
- b. 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.

(5) **(Effective July 1, 2008)** License to be sent by mail. – The Division shall issue to the applicant a temporary driving certificate valid for 20 days, unless the applicant is applying for renewal by mail under subdivision (4) of this subsection. The temporary driving certificate shall be valid for driving purposes only and shall not be valid for identification purposes. The Division shall produce the applicant's drivers license at a central location and send it to the applicant by first-class mail at the residence address provided by the applicant.

...."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-7(f), as amended by Section 1 of this act, reads as

rewritten:

"§ 20-7. **Issuance and renewal of drivers licenses.**

...

(f) **Duration and Renewal of Licenses. –** Drivers licenses shall be issued and renewed pursuant to the provisions of this subsection:

- (1) **Duration of license for persons under age 18. –** A full provisional license issued to a person under the age of 18 expires on the person's twenty-first birthday.

- 1 (2) Duration of original license for persons at least 18 years of age or  
2 older. – A drivers license issued to a person at least 18 years old but  
3 less than ~~54~~ 65 years old expires on the birthday of the licensee in the  
4 eighth year after issuance. A drivers license issued to a person at least  
5 ~~54~~ 65 years old expires on the birthday of the licensee in the fifth year  
6 after issuance.
- 7 (2a) Duration of renewed licenses. – A renewed drivers license that was  
8 issued by the Division to a person at least 18 years old but less than ~~54~~  
9 65 years old expires eight years after the expiration date of the license  
10 that is renewed. A renewed drivers license that was issued by the  
11 Division to a person at least ~~54~~ 65 years old expires five years after the  
12 expiration date of the license that is renewed.
- 13 (3) Duration of license for certain other drivers. –The durations listed in  
14 subdivisions (1), (2), and (2a) of this subsection are valid unless the  
15 Division determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued  
16 when the applicant holds a visa of limited duration from the United  
17 States Department of Homeland Security, but in no event shall the  
18 license expire later than the applicant's lawful presence in the United  
19 States.
- 20 (3a) When to renew. – A person may apply to the Division to renew a  
21 license during the 180-day period before the license expires. The  
22 Division may not accept an application for renewal made before the  
23 180-day period begins.
- 24 (4) Renewal by mail. – The Division may renew by mail a drivers license  
25 issued by the Division to a person who meets any of the following  
26 descriptions:
- 27 a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United  
28 States and is stationed outside this State.
- 29 b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside the State  
30 for at least 30 continuous days.
- 31 When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the  
32 examination that would otherwise be required for the renewal and may  
33 impose any conditions it finds advisable. A license renewed by mail is  
34 a temporary license that expires 60 days after the person to whom it is  
35 issued returns to this State.
- 36 (5) **(Effective July 1, 2008)** License to be sent by mail. – The Division  
37 shall issue to the applicant a temporary driving certificate valid for 20  
38 days, unless the applicant is applying for renewal by mail under  
39 subdivision (4) of this subsection. The temporary driving certificate  
40 shall be valid for driving purposes only and shall not be valid for  
41 identification purposes. The Division shall produce the applicant's  
42 drivers license at a central location and send it to the applicant by  
43 first-class mail at the residence address provided by the applicant.
- 44 ...."

1           **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2007, and  
2 applies to drivers licenses issued or renewed on or after that date. Section 2 of this act  
3 becomes effective January 1, 2008. The remainder of this act is effective when it  
4 becomes law.