

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H.B. 297  
Mar 15, 2021  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40188-NE-19A

Short Title: DMV Active Duty Military Exemptions. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Winslow, Cleveland, Goodwin, and Zenger (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL DEFENSE TO DRIVING WITH AN EXPIRED  
3 LICENSE AND WAIVING THE LATE FEE FOR RENEWING AN EXPIRED LICENSE  
4 FOR PERSONS DEPLOYED ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 20-35 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(d) Defense for Active Duty Military. – A person may not be found responsible for  
8 driving a motor vehicle with an expired drivers license if, when tried for that offense, the person  
9 establishes the following:

10 (1) The person was deployed on active military duty when the drivers license  
11 expired.

12 (2) The person obtained a renewed drivers license within 30 days after returning  
13 from deployment."

14 SECTION 1.(b) This section becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to  
15 offenses committed on or after that date.

16 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-88.03 reads as rewritten:

17 "§ 20-88.03. **Late fee; motor vehicle registration.**

18 (a) Late Fee. – In addition to the applicable fees required under this Article for the  
19 registration of a motor vehicle and any interest assessed under G.S. 105-330.4, the Division shall  
20 charge a late fee according to the following schedule to a person who pays the applicable  
21 registration fee required under this Article after the registration expires:

22 (1) If the registration has been expired for less than one month, a late fee of fifteen  
23 dollars (\$15.00).

24 (2) If the registration has been expired for one month or greater, but less than two  
25 months, a late fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00).

26 (3) If the registration has been expired for two months or greater, a late fee of  
27 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

28 (a1) Waiver. – The Division shall waive the late fee assessed under subsection (a) of this  
29 section against a person who establishes the following:

30 (1) The person was deployed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United  
31 States when the registration expired.

32 (2) The person obtained a renewed registration within 30 days after the  
33 deployment ended.

34 ...."

35 SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective October 1,  
36 2021.

