

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 217

Short Title: Driver Educ./18 Yrs & Older & Unlicensed. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lowery, Biggs, and Charles Smith (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and  
Operations of the House

February 27, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COURSE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS FOR  
PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS AND OLDER THAT ARE NOT LICENSED.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
a new section to read:

**"§ 20-11.2. Mandatory course in drug and alcohol abuse awareness for unlicensed drivers  
18 years and older.**

(a) Mandatory Course. – All applicants for a drivers license who are 18 years and older,  
including those who have been licensed in another country, must complete a course in alcohol  
and drug abuse awareness, unless the applicant is licensed in another state or has satisfactorily  
completed a Department of Education driver education course offered pursuant to Article 14 of  
Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

(b) Course Requirements. – The course shall be three hours in length, may be offered  
online or in person, and shall promote traffic safety and provide instruction on (i) the  
physiological and psychological consequences of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, (ii) the  
effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the driver of a motor vehicle, (iii) the laws of this State  
relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, and (iv) high-risk driving behaviors, such as fatigued  
driving, aggressive driving, and distracted driving, including the use of electronic devices while  
driving.

(c) Third-Party Vendors. – The Division shall utilize third-party vendors to offer the  
course in alcohol and drug abuse awareness. Each third-party vendor shall obtain a certification  
from the Division that the third-party vendor's course complies with the requirements of  
subsection (b) of this section. The Division shall maintain oversight of the courses established  
and conducted by the third-party vendors. Each person who attends the course shall pay a fee in  
the amount set by the Division."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.

