

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40389-MLf-38

Short Title: Require Driver Retraining Course. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Shepard, Torbett, and Stevens (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ESTABLISH AND  
3 CONDUCT DRIVER RETRAINING COURSES FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD  
4 THEIR DRIVERS LICENSE SUSPENDED PURSUANT TO CERTAIN LAWS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 20-16 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 20-16. Authority of Division to suspend license.

8 (a) The Division shall have authority to suspend the license of any operator with or  
9 without a preliminary hearing upon a showing by its records or other satisfactory evidence that  
10 the licensee:

11 ...

12 (6) Has made or permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of ~~such the~~ license or a  
13 learner's permit, or has displayed or represented as his or her own, a license  
14 or learner's permit not issued to ~~him;~~him or her;

15 ...

16 (8b) Has violated on a military installation a regulation of that installation  
17 prohibiting conduct substantially similar to conduct that constitutes impaired  
18 driving under G.S. 20-138.1 and, as a result of that violation, has had his or  
19 her privilege to drive on that installation revoked or suspended after an  
20 administrative hearing authorized by the commanding officer of the  
21 installation and that commanding officer has general court martial  
22 jurisdiction;

23 ...

24 However, if the Division revokes without a preliminary hearing and the person whose license is  
25 being revoked requests a hearing before the effective date of the revocation, the licensee retains  
26 his or her license unless it is revoked under some other provision of the law, until the hearing is  
27 held, the person withdraws his or her request, or he or she fails to appear at a scheduled hearing.

28 (b) Pending an appeal from a conviction of any violation of the motor vehicle laws of this  
29 State, no driver's license shall be suspended by the Division of Motor Vehicles because of ~~such~~  
30 the conviction or because of evidence of the commission of the offense for which the conviction  
31 has been had.

32 (c) The Division shall maintain a record of convictions of every person licensed or  
33 required to be licensed under the provisions of this Article as an operator and shall enter therein  
34 records of all convictions of such persons for any violation of the motor vehicle laws of this State  
35 and shall assign to the record of ~~such the~~ person, as of the date of commission of the offense, a  
36 number of points for every ~~such~~ conviction in accordance with the following schedule of



1 convictions and points, except that points shall not be assessed for convictions resulting in
2 suspensions or revocations under other provisions of laws: Further, any points heretofore charged
3 for violation of the motor vehicle inspection laws shall not be considered by the Division of
4 Motor Vehicles as a basis for suspension or revocation of driver's license:

5 Schedule of Point Values

6 Passing stopped school bus ..... 5
7 Aggressive driving ..... 5
8 Reckless driving ..... 4
9 Hit and run, property damage only ..... 4
10 Following too close ..... 4
11 Driving on wrong side of road ..... 4
12 Illegal passing..... 4
13 Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian
14 pursuant to G.S. 20-158(b)(2)b. .... 4
15 Failure to yield right-of-way to bicycle,
16 motor scooter, or motorcycle..... 4
17 Running through stop sign ..... 3
18 Speeding in excess of 55 miles per hour ..... 3
19 Failing to yield right-of-way ..... 3
20 Running through red light ..... 3
21 No driver's license or license expired more than one year ..... 3
22 Failure to stop for siren ..... 3
23 Driving through safety zone ..... 3
24 No liability insurance ..... 3
25 Failure to report accident where such report is required ..... 3
26 Speeding in a school zone in excess of the posted school
27 zone speed limit..... 3
28 Failure to properly restrain a child in a restraint or seat belt..... 2
29 All other moving violations..... 2
30 Littering pursuant to G.S. 14-399 when the littering
31 involves the use of a motor vehicle ..... 1
32

33 Schedule of Point Values for Violations While Operating a Commercial Motor
34 Vehicle

35 Passing stopped school bus ..... 8
36 Rail-highway crossing violation..... 6
37 Careless and reckless driving in violation of
38 G.S. 20-140(f)..... 6
39 Speeding in violation of G.S. 20-141(j3) ..... 6
40 Aggressive driving ..... 6
41 Reckless driving ..... 5
42 Hit and run, property damage only ..... 5
43 Following too close ..... 5
44 Driving on wrong side of road ..... 5
45 Illegal passing..... 5
46 Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian
47 pursuant to G.S. 20-158(b)(2)b. .... 5
48 Failure to yield right-of-way to bicycle,
49 motor scooter, or motorcycle..... 5
50 Running through stop sign ..... 4
51 Speeding in excess of 55 miles per hour ..... 4

1 Failing to yield right-of-way ..... 4  
 2 Running through red light ..... 4  
 3 No driver's license or license expired more than one year ..... 4  
 4 Failure to stop for siren ..... 4  
 5 Driving through safety zone ..... 4  
 6 No liability insurance ..... 4  
 7 Failure to report accident where such report is required ..... 4  
 8 Speeding in a school zone in excess of the posted school  
 9 zone speed limit..... 4  
 10 Possessing alcoholic beverages in the passenger area of  
 11 a commercial motor vehicle ..... 4  
 12 All other moving violations..... 3  
 13 Littering pursuant to G.S. 14-399 when the littering  
 14 involves the use of a motor vehicle ..... 1

15 The above provisions of this subsection shall only apply to violations and convictions which  
 16 take place within the State of North Carolina. The Schedule of Point Values for Violations While  
 17 Operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle shall not apply to any commercial motor vehicle known  
 18 as an "aerial lift truck" having a hydraulic arm and bucket station, and to any commercial motor  
 19 vehicle known as a "line truck" having a hydraulic lift for cable, if the vehicle is owned, operated  
 20 by or under contract to a public utility, electric or telephone membership corporation or  
 21 municipality and used in connection with installation, restoration or maintenance of utility  
 22 services.

23 No points shall be assessed for conviction of the following offenses:

- 24 Overloads
- 25 Over length
- 26 Over width
- 27 Over height
- 28 Illegal parking
- 29 Carrying concealed weapon
- 30 Improper plates
- 31 Improper registration
- 32 Improper muffler
- 33 Improper display of license plates or dealers' tags
- 34 Unlawful display of emblems and insignia
- 35 Failure to display current inspection certificate.

36 In case of the conviction of a licensee of two or more traffic offenses committed on a single  
 37 occasion, ~~such the~~ licensee shall be assessed points for one offense only and if the offenses  
 38 involved have a different point value, ~~such the~~ licensee shall be assessed for the offense having  
 39 the greater point value.

40 Upon the restoration of the license or driving privilege of ~~such the~~ person whose license or  
 41 driving privilege has been suspended or revoked because of conviction for a traffic offense, or  
 42 upon completion of the driver retraining course established in accordance with subsection (d1)  
 43 of this section within the 90-day presuspension notice period required under subsection (d) of  
 44 this section, any points that might previously have been accumulated in the driver's record shall  
 45 be cancelled.

46 Whenever any licensee accumulates as many as seven points or accumulates as many as four  
 47 points during a three-year period immediately following reinstatement of his license after a  
 48 period of suspension or revocation, the Division may request the licensee to attend a conference  
 49 regarding ~~such the~~ licensee's driving record. The Division may also afford any licensee who has  
 50 accumulated as many as seven points or any licensee who has accumulated as many as four points  
 51 within a three-year period immediately following reinstatement of his license after a period of

1 suspension or revocation an opportunity to attend a driver improvement clinic operated by the  
2 Division and, upon the successful completion of the course taken at the clinic, three points shall  
3 be deducted from the licensee's conviction record; provided, that only one deduction of points  
4 shall be made on behalf of any licensee within any five-year period.

5 ~~When a license is suspended under the point system provided for herein, the first such~~  
6 ~~suspension shall be for not more than 60 days; the second such suspension shall not exceed six~~  
7 ~~months and any subsequent suspension shall not exceed one year.~~A license suspended pursuant  
8 to subdivision (5), (9), (10), or (10a) of subsection (a) of this section shall be indefinite until the  
9 person completes the driver retraining course established in accordance with subsection (d1) of  
10 this section. If the licensee completes the driver retraining course within the 90-day  
11 presuspension notice period required under subsection (d) of this section and no other provision  
12 of law suspends or revokes the license, the Division shall cancel the suspension and the licensee  
13 may retain the license. If the licensee completes the driver retraining course after the 90-day  
14 presuspension notice period required under subsection (d) of this section and no other provision  
15 of law suspends or revokes the license, the suspension shall be terminated and the licensee may  
16 apply for restoration of the licensee's driving privilege.

17 Whenever the driver's license of any person is subject to suspension under this subsection  
18 and at the same time also subject to suspension or revocation under other provisions of laws,  
19 such suspensions or revocations shall run concurrently.

20 In the discretion of the Division, a period of probation not to exceed one year may be  
21 substituted for suspension or for any unexpired period of suspension under ~~subsections~~  
22 subdivisions (a)(1) through (a)(10a) of this section. Any violation of probation during the  
23 probation period shall result in a suspension for the unexpired remainder of the suspension  
24 period. Any accumulation of three or more points under this subsection during a period of  
25 probation shall constitute a violation of the condition of probation. For a license suspended  
26 pursuant to subdivision (5), (9), (10), or (10a) of subsection (a) of this section, the Division may  
27 not substitute a period of probation for suspension or for any unexpired period of suspension  
28 before the licensee completes the driver retraining course established in accordance with  
29 subsection (d1) of this section.

30 (d) Upon suspending the license of any person as authorized in this section, the Division  
31 shall immediately notify the licensee in ~~writing and upon his request~~ writing. For a license  
32 suspended pursuant to subdivision (5), (9), (10), or (10a) of subsection (a) of this section, the  
33 effective date of the suspension shall be 90 days from the date set forth on the notice required  
34 under this subsection. Upon a licensee's request, the Division shall afford ~~him~~ the licensee an  
35 opportunity for a hearing, not to exceed 60 days after receipt of the request, unless a preliminary  
36 hearing was held before ~~his~~ the licensee's license was suspended. Upon ~~such~~ the hearing the duly

37 authorized agents of the Division may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the  
38 attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books and papers and may require a  
39 reexamination of the licensee. Upon ~~such~~ the hearing the Division shall either rescind its order  
40 of suspension, or good cause appearing therefor, may extend the suspension of ~~such~~ the license.  
41 Provided further upon ~~such~~ the hearing, preliminary or otherwise, involving ~~subsections~~  
42 subdivisions (a)(1) through (a)(10a) of this section, the Division may for good cause appearing  
43 in its discretion substitute a period of probation not to exceed one year for the suspension or for  
44 any unexpired period of suspension. For a license suspended pursuant to subdivision (5), (9),  
45 (10), or (10a) of subsection (a) of this section, the Division may not substitute a period of  
46 probation for suspension or for any unexpired period of suspension before the licensee completes  
47 the driver retraining course established in accordance with subsection (d1) of this section.  
48 Probation shall mean any written agreement between the suspended driver and a duly authorized  
49 representative of the Division and ~~such~~ the period of probation shall not exceed one year, and  
50 any violation of the probation agreement during the probation period shall result in a suspension  
51 for the unexpired remainder of the suspension period. The authorized agents of the Division shall

1 have the same powers in connection with a preliminary hearing prior to suspension as this  
2 subsection provided in connection with hearings held after suspension. These agents shall also  
3 have the authority to take possession of a surrendered license on behalf of the Division if the  
4 suspension is upheld and the licensee requests that the suspension begin immediately.

5 (d1) The Division shall establish and conduct, or utilize a third-party vendor to establish  
6 and conduct, driver retraining courses for the benefit of persons who have had their licenses  
7 suspended or been placed on probation, pursuant to subdivision (5), (9), (10), or (10a) of  
8 subsection (a) of this section. If the Division utilizes a third-party vendor, the Division shall  
9 maintain oversight of the driver retraining course established and conducted by the third-party  
10 vendor. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, each driver attending a driver retraining  
11 course shall pay a fee in an amount set by the Division, not to exceed one hundred seventy-five  
12 dollars (\$175.00) of which twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be retained by the Division. Upon  
13 request of the driver, the course provider shall waive the fee required under this subsection if the  
14 driver provides documentation satisfactory to the course provider establishing that the driver  
15 receives public assistance or has a prior judicial determination of indigence. Each driver attending  
16 a driver retraining course shall do so in person, and the course may not be completed remotely.  
17 The driver retraining course shall be at least eight hours in total duration and shall maintain a  
18 student-to-instructor ratio deemed appropriate by the Division. The driver retraining course shall  
19 be behavioral-based, interactive, and demonstrated scientifically to be associated with decreases  
20 in traffic violations. The driver retraining course shall teach the driver that poor behavioral  
21 choices made behind the wheel often result in unintended consequences and shall help the driver  
22 understand the responsibility placed upon each driver to conform his or her behavior and conduct  
23 for the benefit of the driver, other drivers, and pedestrians. The driver retraining course shall  
24 include all of the following:

- 25 (1) An examination of the driver's own behavior in various driving situations to  
26 help the driver understand the behavioral driving characteristics that have  
27 resulted in the driver's poor driving record.
- 28 (2) Psychology-based principles or methodologies, as they relate to  
29 behind-the-wheel driving behavior.
- 30 (3) An examination of why drivers do or do not choose to obey traffic laws, with  
31 the primary focus on behaviors rather than excuses.
- 32 (4) A review of the four components of human behavior, doing, thinking, feeling,  
33 and physiology, and the connection between the concepts of needs and wants  
34 to behaviors and the human ability to choose behaviors.
- 35 (5) A consideration of additional problem driver behaviors, including all of the  
36 following:
  - 37 a. Dangers associated with prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
  - 38 b. Dangers of driving at excessive speeds.
  - 39 c. Dangers of right-of-way violations.
  - 40 d. Dangers of distracted driving.
  - 41 e. Dangers of improper passing and following other vehicles too closely.
  - 42 f. Dangers of aggressive driving.
  - 43 g. Dangers of fatigued driving.

44 ...

45 ~~(e1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, if the Division suspends the~~  
46 ~~license of an operator pursuant to subdivisions (a)(9), (a)(10), or (a)(10a) of this section, upon~~  
47 ~~the first suspension only, a district court judge may allow the licensee a limited driving privilege~~  
48 ~~or license for a period not to exceed 12 months, provided he has not been convicted of any other~~  
49 ~~motor vehicle moving violation within the previous 12 months. The limited driving privilege~~  
50 ~~shall be issued in the same manner and under the terms and conditions prescribed in~~  
51 ~~G.S. 20-16.1(b)(1), (2), (3), (4), and (5).~~

1       ...."

2               **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 20-19 reads as rewritten:

3       "**§ 20-19. Period of suspension or revocation; conditions of restoration.**

4       (a)       When a license is suspended under subdivision (8) ~~or (9)~~ of G.S. 20-16(a), the period  
5 of suspension shall be in the discretion of the Division and for such time as it deems best for  
6 public safety but shall not exceed six months.

7       ~~(b)       When a license is suspended under subdivision (10) of G.S. 20-16(a), the period of~~  
8 ~~suspension shall be in the discretion of the Division and for such time as it deems best for public~~  
9 ~~safety but shall not exceed a period of 12 months.~~

10       ...."

11               **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies to  
12 licenses suspended on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes  
13 law.