

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE BILL 780
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H780-PCS30327-RQ-11**

Short Title: NC Special ID Cards for High School Students.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 19, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT LEAST SIXTEEN
3 YEARS OF AGE TO OBTAIN A NORTH CAROLINA SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION
4 CARD FOR FREE AND TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO ISSUE SPECIAL
5 IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN ANSON,
6 GASTON, MECKLENBURG, AND UNION COUNTIES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-37.7(d) reads as rewritten:

9 "(d) Expiration and Fee. – A special identification card issued to a person for the first time
10 under this section expires when a drivers license issued on the same day to that person would
11 expire. A special identification card renewed under this section expires when a drivers license
12 renewed by the card holder on the same day would expire. The Division shall offer renewal of a
13 special identification card in person and online on the Division's Web site.

14 The fee for a special identification card is the same as the fee set in G.S. 20-14 for a duplicate
15 license. The fee does not apply to a special identification card issued to a resident of this State as
16 follows:

- 17 (1) The applicant is legally blind.
- 18 (2) The applicant is at least ~~17~~16 years old.
- 19 (3) The applicant has been issued a drivers license but the drivers license is
20 cancelled under G.S. 20-15, in accordance with G.S. 20-9(e) and (g), as a
21 result of a physical or mental disability or disease.
- 22 (4) The applicant is homeless. To obtain a special identification card without
23 paying a fee, a homeless person must present a letter to the Division from the
24 director of a facility that provides care or shelter to homeless persons verifying
25 that the person is homeless.
- 26 (5), (6) Repealed by Session Laws 2018-144, s. 1.3(a), effective December 19,
27 2018.
- 28 (7) The applicant has a developmental disability. To obtain a special identification
29 card without paying a fee pursuant to this subdivision, an applicant must
30 present a letter from his or her primary care provider certifying that the
31 applicant has a developmental disability. For purposes of this subdivision, the
32 term "developmental disability" has the same meaning as in G.S. 122C-3."

33 **SECTION 2.(a)** Establishment of Pilot Program. – By no later than December 31,
34 2024, the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation (DMV), in
35 conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the governing
36 bodies of public school units with high schools located in Anson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and



1 Union Counties, shall establish and implement a pilot program to issue a North Carolina Special
2 Identification Card as provided under G.S. 20-37.7 to eligible students in public high schools.

3 **SECTION 2.(b)** Pilot Program Requirements. – The pilot program established
4 pursuant to this act shall, at minimum, meet all of the following requirements:

- 5 (1) Students that are (i) at least 16 years old and (ii) enrolled in a public high
6 school located within Anson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, or Union Counties shall
7 be eligible to receive a Special Identification Card.
- 8 (2) DMV, DPI, and the governing bodies of public high schools located in Anson,
9 Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties shall provide information to
10 students and parents regarding the issuance of Special Identification Cards.
- 11 (3) DMV, DPI, and the governing bodies of public high schools located in Anson,
12 Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties shall coordinate scheduled time to
13 give students the opportunity to obtain Special Identification Cards. Time to
14 obtain a Special Identification Card shall be scheduled on one instructional
15 day prior to December 31 of that school year and one instructional day after
16 December 31 of that school year. If students travel to a DMV location to
17 obtain the Special Identification Card, the DMV shall have a dedicated
18 terminal for students during that time. A DMV mobile office may also be used
19 to satisfy this requirement.
- 20 (4) Upon the request of a student, the student's high school shall provide the DMV
21 with the information required to complete a Special Identification Card
22 application. This information shall be provided in a manner prescribed by the
23 DMV.
- 24 (5) Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-93 or any other law to the contrary, the State
25 Registrar is authorized to issue a certified copy of a student's birth certificate
26 to the governing body of a public high school or the Division upon a student's
27 request in connection with a Special Identification Card application. The
28 certified copy of the student's birth certificate is not a public record.

29 **SECTION 2.(c)** Expiration of the Pilot Program. – The pilot program required by
30 this act expires December 31, 2026.

31 **SECTION 3.** Applicability. – Section 2 of this act applies to public high schools
32 located in Anson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties only.

33 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.