

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 584
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40348-NE-69

Short Title: Permit/Provisional License Modifications. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Willis.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ELIMINATING DRIVING ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE AND WAITING PERIOD
3 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LEARNER'S PERMITS AND
4 PROVISIONAL DRIVERS LICENSES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6
7 **PART I. ELIMINATE DRIVING ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE AND WAITING**
8 **PERIOD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LEARNER'S PERMITS AND**
9 **PROVISIONAL DRIVERS LICENSES**

10 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-11 reads as rewritten:

11 "§ 20-11. Issuance of limited learner's permit and provisional drivers license to person who
12 is less than 18 years old.

13 ...

14 (b) Level 1. – A person who is at least 15 years old but less than 18 years old may obtain
15 a limited learner's permit if the person meets all of the following requirements:

16 ...

17 (3) ~~Has a driving eligibility certificate or a high school diploma or its equivalent.~~

18 ...

19 (d) Level 2. – A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old may obtain
20 a limited provisional license if the person meets all of the following requirements:

21 (1) ~~Has held a limited learner's permit issued by the Division for at least nine~~
22 ~~months.~~

23 ...

24 (4) ~~Has a driving eligibility certificate or a high school diploma or its equivalent.~~

25 ...

26 (f) Level 3. – A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old may obtain
27 a full provisional license if the person meets all of the following requirements:

28 ...

29 (3) ~~Has a driving eligibility certificate or a high school diploma or its equivalent.~~

30 ...

31 (h) Exception for Persons 16 to 18 Who Have an Unrestricted Out-of-State License. – A
32 person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old, who was a resident of another state
33 and has an unrestricted drivers license issued by that state, and who becomes a resident of this
34 State may obtain one of the following upon the submission of a driving eligibility certificate or
35 a high school diploma or its equivalent: following:

36 ...



1 (n) ~~Driving Eligibility Certificate.~~—A person who desires to obtain a permit or license
2 issued under this section must have a high school diploma or its equivalent or must have a driving
3 eligibility certificate. ~~A driving eligibility certificate must meet the following conditions:~~

4 (1) ~~The person who is required to sign the certificate under subdivision (4) of this~~
5 ~~subsection must show that he or she has determined that one of the following~~
6 ~~requirements is met:~~

7 a. ~~The person is currently enrolled in school and is making progress~~
8 ~~toward obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent.~~

9 b. ~~A substantial hardship would be placed on the person or the person's~~
10 ~~family if the person does not receive a certificate.~~

11 c. ~~The person cannot make progress toward obtaining a high school~~
12 ~~diploma or its equivalent.~~

13 (1a) ~~The person who is required to sign the certificate under subdivision (4) of this~~
14 ~~subsection also must show that one of the following requirements is met:~~

15 a. ~~The person who seeks a permit or license issued under this section is~~
16 ~~not subject to subsection (n1) of this section.~~

17 b. ~~The person who seeks a permit or license issued under this section is~~
18 ~~subject to subsection (n1) of this section and is eligible for the~~
19 ~~certificate under that subsection.~~

20 (2) ~~It must be on a form approved by the Division.~~

21 (3) ~~It must be dated within 30 days of the date the person applies for a permit or~~
22 ~~license issuable under this section.~~

23 (4) ~~It must be signed by the applicable person named below:~~

24 a. ~~The principal, or the principal's designee, of the public school in which~~
25 ~~the person is enrolled.~~

26 b. ~~The administrator, or the administrator's designee, of the nonpublic~~
27 ~~school in which the person is enrolled.~~

28 c. ~~The person who provides the academic instruction in the home school~~
29 ~~in which the person is enrolled.~~

30 c1. ~~The person who provides the academic instruction in the home in~~
31 ~~accordance with an educational program found by a court, prior to July~~
32 ~~1, 1998, to comply with the compulsory attendance law.~~

33 d. ~~The designee of the board of directors of the charter school in which~~
34 ~~the person is enrolled.~~

35 e. ~~The president, or the president's designee, of the community college~~
36 ~~in which the person is enrolled.~~

37 ~~Notwithstanding any other law, the decision concerning whether a driving eligibility~~
38 ~~certificate was properly issued or improperly denied shall be appealed only as provided under~~
39 ~~the rules adopted in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(28), 115D-5(a3), or 115C-566, whichever is~~
40 ~~applicable, and may not be appealed under this Chapter.~~

41 (n1) ~~Lose Control; Lose License.~~

42 (1) ~~The following definitions apply in this subsection:~~

43 a. ~~Applicable State entity.~~—~~The State Board of Education for public~~
44 ~~schools and charter schools, the State Board of Community Colleges~~
45 ~~for community colleges, or the Secretary of Administration for~~
46 ~~nonpublic schools and home schools.~~

47 b. ~~Certificate.~~—~~A driving eligibility certificate that meets the conditions~~
48 ~~of subsection (n) of this section.~~

49 c. ~~Disciplinary action.~~—~~An expulsion, a suspension for more than 10~~
50 ~~consecutive days, or an assignment to an alternative educational~~
51 ~~setting for more than 10 consecutive days.~~

- 1 d. ~~Enumerated student conduct.—One of the following behaviors that~~
2 ~~results in disciplinary action:~~
- 3 1. ~~The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal~~
4 ~~controlled substance on school property.~~
- 5 2. ~~The bringing, possession, or use on school property of a~~
6 ~~weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under~~
7 ~~G.S. 115C-390.10 or that could have resulted in that~~
8 ~~disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public~~
9 ~~school.~~
- 10 3. ~~The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on~~
11 ~~school property.~~
- 12 e. ~~School.—A public school, charter school, community college,~~
13 ~~nonpublic school, or home school.~~
- 14 f. ~~School administrator.—The person who is required to sign certificates~~
15 ~~under subdivision (4) of subsection (n) of this section.~~
- 16 g. ~~School property.—The physical premises of the school, school buses~~
17 ~~or other vehicles under the school's control or contract and that are~~
18 ~~used to transport students, and school sponsored curricular or~~
19 ~~extracurricular activities that occur on or off the physical premises of~~
20 ~~the school.~~
- 21 h. ~~Student.—A person who desires to obtain a permit or license issued~~
22 ~~under this section.~~
- 23 (2) ~~Any student who was subject to disciplinary action for enumerated student~~
24 ~~conduct that occurred either after the first day of July before the school year~~
25 ~~in which the student enrolled in the eighth grade or after the student's~~
26 ~~fourteenth birthday, whichever event occurred first, is subject to this~~
27 ~~subsection.~~
- 28 (3) ~~A student who is subject to this subsection is eligible for a certificate when~~
29 ~~the school administrator determines that the student has exhausted all~~
30 ~~administrative appeals connected to the disciplinary action and that one of the~~
31 ~~following conditions is met:~~
- 32 a. ~~The enumerated student conduct occurred before the student reached~~
33 ~~the age of 15, and the student is now at least 16 years old.~~
- 34 b. ~~The enumerated student conduct occurred after the student reached the~~
35 ~~age of 15, and it is at least one year after the date the student exhausted~~
36 ~~all administrative appeals connected to the disciplinary action.~~
- 37 e. ~~The student needs the certificate in order to drive to and from school,~~
38 ~~a drug or alcohol treatment counseling program, as appropriate, or a~~
39 ~~mental health treatment program, and no other transportation is~~
40 ~~available.~~
- 41 (4) ~~A student whose permit or license is denied or revoked due to ineligibility for~~
42 ~~a certificate under this subsection may otherwise be eligible for a certificate~~
43 ~~if, after six months from the date of the ineligibility, the school administrator~~
44 ~~determines that one of the following conditions is met:~~
- 45 a. ~~The student has returned to school or has been placed in an alternative~~
46 ~~educational setting, and has displayed exemplary student behavior, as~~
47 ~~defined by the applicable State entity.~~
- 48 b. ~~The disciplinary action was for the possession or sale of an alcoholic~~
49 ~~beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property, and the~~
50 ~~student subsequently attended and successfully completed, as defined~~

1 by the applicable State entity, a drug or alcohol treatment counseling
2 program, as appropriate."
3

4 **PART II. CONFORMING CHANGES**

5 **SECTION 2.** The following statutes are repealed:

- 6 (1) G.S. 20-9(b1).
- 7 (2) G.S. 20-13.2(c1).
- 8 (3) G.S. 115C-12(28).
- 9 (4) G.S. 115C-150.12C(19).
- 10 (5) G.S. 115C-218.70.
- 11 (6) G.S. 115C-238.66(8).
- 12 (7) G.S. 115C-288(k).
- 13 (8) G.S. 115C-566.

14
15 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

16 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to permit or
17 provisional license applications submitted on or after that date.