



HOUSE BILL 217: Driver Educ./18 Yrs & Older & Unlicensed.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 9, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Lowery, Biggs, Charles Smith	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H217-CSSU-2		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 217 would require new drivers aged 18 and older to complete a driver education course, including alcohol and drug use awareness, in order to apply for a drivers license in North Carolina.*

CURRENT LAW: North Carolina law requires teens aged 15-17 to complete a course in driver education before being eligible to apply for a permit or license under graduated licensing (G.S. 20-11.) Persons who are 18 or older are not required to take drivers education prior to applying for a learner's permit or drivers license under G.S. 20-7.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 217 would require an applicant for a drivers license under G.S. 20-7 to complete a three-hour driver education course. The course would have to be offered online and in person and would include instruction on North Carolina law relating to operation of a vehicle, the consequences of alcohol and drug use and its effect on drivers, and other high-risk driving behaviors.

The course requirement would not apply to any applicant who currently holds or has held a North Carolina drivers license or a license issued by another state or an applicant who has completed the driver education course required for graduated licensing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective October 1, 2025, and would apply to applications for drivers licenses submitted on or after that date.

Kara McCraw
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578