



# HOUSE BILL 584: Permit/Provisional License Modifications.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 9, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Willis, Johnson, McNeely, Gable	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H584-CSSU-3		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 584 would amend the graduated drivers licensing law as follows:*

- *Eliminate the requirement that a teen driver hold a Level 1 limited learner's permit for at least nine months before being eligible to apply for a Level 2 limited provisional license.*
- *Eliminate the requirement that a teen have a driving eligibility certificate in order to obtain and maintain a permit or license under graduated licensing.*
- *Allow a teen who holds a Level 2 limited provisional license to apply for a Level 3 full provisional license remotely and have the license issued without having to appear in person at a drivers license office.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under North Carolina's graduated drivers licensing statute (G.S. 20-11), there are three levels of driving privileges for persons less than 18 years old: Level 1 – limited learner's permit; Level 2 – limited provisional license; and Level 3 – full provisional license. Each level has different statutory requirements for eligibility and restrictions that apply to the privilege (see chart on page 3 for detailed requirements and restrictions for each level.) In addition to other requirements, a teen must hold a Level 1 limited learner's permit for a minimum of nine months before being eligible to apply for a Level 2 limited provisional license, and a teen must hold a Level 2 limited provisional license for a minimum of 6 months before being eligible to apply for a Level 3. A Level 3 full provisional licensee is not subject to any limitations regarding time of driving, supervision, or passengers.

In order to be eligible to obtain a permit or license under graduated licensing, a teen driver must have a high school diploma or its equivalent or have a driving eligibility certificate issued by the appropriate school authority. A driving eligibility certificate indicates that the teen is enrolled in school and making progress toward obtaining a diploma or cannot make progress or would suffer substantial hardship if he or she does not receive a certificate. A driving eligibility certificate must be issued within 30 days of the date the teen applies for a permit, and it must be maintained as long as the teen holds a permit or license under graduated licensing. The school authority is required to notify the Division of Motor Vehicles if the teen no longer meets eligibility requirements, and the Division is then required to revoke the license or permit.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for House Bill 584 would amend North Carolina's graduated licensing law in the following ways:

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# House 584 PCS

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Eliminate minimum time period for holding a Level 1 limited learner's permit. Section 1 would eliminate the requirement that a teen hold a Level 1 limited learner's permit for at least nine months in order to obtain a Level 2 limited provisional license. The teen would still have to meet other requirements to be eligible, including passing a road test, logging 60 hours of driving time, and not having any moving violation convictions in the preceding six months.

Eliminate driving eligibility certificates. Section 1 would also eliminate the requirement that a teen driver have a high school diploma or its equivalent or have a driving eligibility certificate in order to get and maintain a permit or license under graduated drivers licensing. Section 3 would make conforming changes to statutes related to driving eligibility certificate issuance, requirements, notifications, and license revocations due to ineligibility.

Allow online application for Level 3 full provisional license. Section 2 would authorize a teen who meets requirements for a Level 3 full provisional license to apply for the license online. The Division of Motor Vehicles would be directed to develop a process to allow required documentation to be submitted electronically or by mail without requiring an applicant to appear in person at a drivers license office.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective October 1, 2025, and would apply to permit and license applications submitted on or after that date.

## GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSE PROVISIONS (G.S. 20-11)

	<b>LEVEL 1 – Limited Learner's Permit</b>	<b>LEVEL 2 – Limited Provisional License</b>	<b>LEVEL 3 – Full Provisional License</b>
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Eligible at 15.</li> <li>· Passes driver education course.</li> <li>· Passes DMV written test.</li> <li>· Has driving eligibility certificate, high school diploma, or equivalent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Eligible at 16.</li> <li>· Has held a Level 1 permit for at least 9 months.</li> <li>· Has no convictions for moving violations, seat belt infractions, or violations of mobile phone prohibition within the last 6 months.</li> <li>· Passes DMV road test.</li> <li>· Has driving eligibility certificate, high school diploma, or equivalent.</li> <li>· 60 logged hours driving, 10 at night.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Eligible at 16.5.</li> <li>· Has held a Level 2 license for at least 6 months.</li> <li>· Has no convictions for moving violations, seat belt infractions, or violations of mobile phone prohibition within the last 6 months.</li> <li>· Has driving eligibility certificate, high school diploma, or equivalent.</li> <li>· 12 logged hours driving, 6 at night.</li> </ul>
<b>TIME RESTRICTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 5:00 am – 9:00 pm for first 6 months.</li> <li>· After 6 months, no restriction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· If supervised, no restriction.</li> <li>· If unsupervised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 5:00 am – 9:00 pm.</li> <li>o Driving directly to or from work.</li> <li>o Driving directly to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, rescue squad, or emergency medical service.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NONE
<b>SUPERVISION</b>	Supervision required at all times, and the supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle.	When supervision is required, the supervising driver must be seated beside the license holder in the front seat of the vehicle.	NONE
<b>PASSENGER LIMITATIONS</b>	Only the supervising driver may be in the front seat.	If unsupervised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Only one non-family or household member passenger under the age of 21, but only if no family member or household passenger is under 21, except one passenger under 21 in addition to family if the passenger is a student traveling directly to and from school.</li> <li>· No limitation on passengers who are family members or members of the same household or over the age of 21.</li> </ul>	NONE
<b>USE OF MOBILE PHONE</b>	All use prohibited.	All use prohibited	Use prohibited except in emergencies and calling parent, guardian, or spouse.

\*All drivers must be in possession of license or permit when driving, and every person occupying the vehicle must have a safety belt properly fastened or be restrained by child passenger restraint system when the vehicle is in motion.

\*A "supervising driver" is a parent, grandparent, guardian, or responsible person approved by the parent, guardian, or DMV, who has been a licensed driver for at least five years.