

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 267\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/25/05

Short Title: 8-Year Drivers License/Internet DL Renewal.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 17, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE EIGHT-YEAR DRIVERS LICENSES AND INTERNET  
2 RENEWAL OF DRIVERS LICENSES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT  
3 LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-7(f) reads as rewritten:

6 "(f) Duration and Renewal of Licenses. – ~~Expiration and Temporary License.~~ –  
7 ~~The first drivers license the Division issues to a person expires on the person's fourth or~~  
8 ~~subsequent birthday that occurs after the license is issued and on which the individual's~~  
9 ~~age is evenly divisible by five, unless this subsection sets a different expiration date. A~~  
10 ~~first drivers license may be issued for a shorter duration if the Division determines that a~~  
11 ~~license of shorter duration should be issued when the applicant holds a visa of limited~~  
12 ~~duration issued by the United States Department of State. The first drivers license the~~  
13 ~~Division issues to a person who is at least 17years old but is less than 18 years old~~  
14 ~~expires on the person's twentieth birthday. The first drivers license the Division issues~~  
15 ~~to a person who is at least 62 years old expires on the person's birthday in the fifth year~~  
16 ~~after the license is issued, whether or not the person's age on that birthday is evenly~~  
17 ~~divisible by five.~~

18 Drivers licenses shall be issued and renewed pursuant to the provisions of this  
19 subsection.

20 (1) Duration of license for persons under age 18. – A full provisional  
21 license issued to a person under the age of 18 shall expire on the  
22 person's 21st birthday.

23 (2) Duration of license for persons at least 18 years of age or older. – A  
24 drivers license issued to a person at least 18 years old but less than 38  
25 years old expires eight years after the date of issuance. A drivers  
26 license issued to a person at least 38 years old expires five years after  
27 the date of issuance.  
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- 1           (3) Internet renewal of license authorized for certain persons. – The  
2 Division is authorized to renew a drivers license electronically in  
3 accordance with this subdivision. The Division may waive the sign  
4 tests for applicants renewing electronically. A person who holds a  
5 commercial drivers license and is required by federal regulations to be  
6 retested shall not renew electronically. A person may renew his or her  
7 drivers license electronically for one five-year period at the time of  
8 each expiration of a license issued in a drivers license office if all of  
9 the following apply:
- 10           a. The person has no more than two reportable accidents on his or  
11 her drivers license record in the previous year.
- 12           b. The person has no restrictions other than a restriction for  
13 corrective lenses on his or her drivers license record in the  
14 previous year.
- 15           c. The person has four or fewer drivers license points.
- 16           d. The person is at least 25 years old and less than 60 years old.
- 17           e. The person has obtained an eye examination by a licensed  
18 ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist within 12 months prior  
19 to the date of electronic renewal, and the results of the  
20 examination are submitted to the Division by the  
21 ophthalmologist or optometrist at the time of the application for  
22 the electronic renewal.
- 23           (4) Duration of license. – A drivers license that was issued by the Division  
24 and is renewed by the Division expires ~~five years~~ at the end of the  
25 period provided by this subsection after the expiration date of the  
26 license that is ~~renewed unless the Division determines that a license of~~  
27 ~~shorter duration should be issued when the applicant holds a visa of~~  
28 ~~limited duration from the United States Department of State~~ renewed.  
29 A person may apply to the Division to renew a license during the 180  
30 day period before the license expires. The Division may not accept an  
31 application for renewal made before the 180 day period begins.
- 32           (5) Duration of license for certain visa holders. – Any drivers license  
33 issued or renewed by the Division to an applicant who holds a visa of  
34 limited duration from the United States Department of Homeland  
35 Security shall only be for the duration of the visa.
- 36           (6) Renewal by mail. – The Division may renew by mail a drivers license  
37 issued by the Division to a person who meets any of the following  
38 descriptions:
- 39           (1)a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United  
40 States and is stationed outside this State.
- 41           (2)b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside the State  
42 for at least 30 continuous days.
- 43           When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the  
44 examination that would otherwise be required for the renewal and may

1 impose any conditions it finds advisable. A license renewed by mail is  
2 a temporary license that expires 60 days after the person to whom it is  
3 issued returns to this State.

4 (7) License to be sent by mail. – The Division shall issue a temporary  
5 driving certificate valid for 10 days to the applicant. The temporary  
6 driving certificate shall only be valid for driving purposes, and shall  
7 not be valid for identification purposes. The Division shall produce the  
8 applicant's drivers license at a central location and send it to the  
9 applicant by first-class mail at the address provided by the applicant."

10 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.