

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 673

Short Title: Bioptic Lenses for Drivers License Tests. (Public)

Sponsors: Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House (Primary Sponsor).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Transportation.

April 10, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF BIOPTIC LENSES WHEN TESTING FOR A
3 DRIVERS LICENSE AND THE ISSUANCE OF A RESTRICTED LICENSE TO AN
4 INDIVIDUAL THAT PASSES CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AFTER PASSING THE
5 DRIVERS LICENSE EYE TEST.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-7 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(t) Use of Bioptic Telescopic Lenses. –

9 (1) An applicant using bioptic telescopic lenses shall be eligible for a regular
10 drivers license under this section if the applicant meets all of the following:

11 a. Demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/200 in one or both eyes
12 and a field of 70 degrees horizontal vision with or without corrective
13 carrier lenses, or if the person has vision in one eye only, the person
14 demonstrates a field of at least 40 degrees temporal and 30 degrees
15 nasal horizontal vision.

16 b. Demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/70 in one or both eyes
17 with the bioptic telescopic lenses and without the use of field
18 expanders.

19 c. Provides a report of examination by an ophthalmologist or
20 optometrist on a form prescribed by the Division for the Division to
21 determine if all field of vision requirements are met or additional
22 testing is needed.

23 d. Meets all other criteria for licensure.

24 (2) In addition to the requirements listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection,
25 the Division may require an applicant using bioptic telescopic lenses to
26 successfully complete a behind-the-wheel training and assessment program
27 prescribed by the Division.

28 (3) Applicants using bioptic telescopic lenses shall be eligible for a limited
29 learner's permit or provisional drivers license issued pursuant to G.S. 20-11,
30 provided the requirements of this subsection are met and any other required
31 testing or documentation is completed and submitted with the application.

32 (4) Applicants issued a regular drivers license, limited learner's permit, or
33 provisional drivers license, after using bioptic telescopic lenses for the eye
34 test, shall be subject to the following restrictions on the license issued:



- 1 a. The license or permit holder shall not be eligible for any
2 endorsements.
- 3 b. The license or permit shall permit the operation of motor vehicles
4 only during the period beginning one-half hour after sunrise and
5 ending one-half hour before sunset.
- 6 (5) Applicants issued a regular drivers license, after using bioptic telescopic
7 lenses for the eye test, may drive motor vehicles between the period
8 beginning one-half hour before sunset and ending one-half hour after sunrise
9 if the applicant meets the following requirements:
- 10 a. Demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/40 in one or both eyes
11 with the bioptic telescopic lenses and without the use of field
12 expanders.
- 13 b. Provides a report of examination by an ophthalmologist or
14 optometrist in accordance with sub-subdivision c. of subdivision (1)
15 of this subsection that does not recommend restricting the applicant
16 to driving a motor vehicle only during the period beginning one-half
17 hour after sunrise and ending one-half hour before sunset.

18 Nothing in this subsection shall require the Division to issue licenses or permits applied for,
19 pursuant to the requirements of this section, at any location other than the Division's
20 headquarters office in Raleigh. The Division may select additional offices throughout the State
21 as sites for testing allowed pursuant to this subsection."

22 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.