

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE DRH30616-SUz-21A\* (05/05)**

Short Title: CDL/Federal Compliance.-AB

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Cole.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING COMMERCIAL DRIVERS  
LICENSES IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL LAW, AS  
RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-17.4 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 20-17.4. Disqualification to drive a commercial motor vehicle.**

(a) One Year. – Any of the following disqualifies a person from driving a commercial motor vehicle for one year if committed by a person holding a commercial drivers license, or, when applicable, committed while operating a commercial motor vehicle by a person who does not hold a commercial drivers license:

- (1) A first conviction of G.S. 20-138.1, driving while impaired, for a holder of a commercial drivers license that occurred while the person was driving a motor vehicle that is not a commercial motor vehicle.
- (2) A first conviction of G.S. 20-138.2, driving a commercial motor vehicle while impaired.
- (3) A first conviction of G.S. 20-166, hit and run.
- (4) A first conviction of a felony in the commission of which a commercial motor vehicle was used or the first conviction of a felony in which any motor vehicle is used by a holder of a commercial drivers license.
- (5) Refusal to submit to a chemical test when charged with an implied-consent offense, as defined in G.S. 20-16.2.
- (6) A second or subsequent conviction, as defined in G.S. 20-138.2A(d), of driving a commercial motor vehicle after consuming alcohol under G.S. 20-138.2A.

1 (7) A civil license revocation under G.S. 20-16.5, or a substantially similar  
2 revocation obtained in another jurisdiction, arising out of a charge that  
3 occurred while the person was either operating a commercial motor  
4 ~~vehicle.~~vehicle or while the person was holding a commercial drivers  
5 license.

6 (8) A first conviction of vehicular homicide under G.S. 20-141.4 or  
7 vehicular manslaughter under G.S. 14-18 occurring while the person  
8 was operating a commercial motor vehicle.

9 (9) Driving a commercial motor vehicle during a period when the person's  
10 commercial drivers license is revoked, suspended, cancelled, or the  
11 driver is otherwise disqualified from operating a commercial motor  
12 vehicle.

13 (a1) Ten-Day Disqualification. – A person who is convicted for a first offense of  
14 driving a commercial motor vehicle after consuming alcohol under G.S. 20-138.2A is  
15 disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle for 10 days.

16 (b) Modified Life. – A person who has been disqualified from driving a  
17 commercial motor vehicle for a conviction or refusal described in subsection (a) who, as  
18 the result of a separate incident, is subsequently convicted of an offense or commits an  
19 act requiring disqualification under subsection (a) is disqualified for life. The Division  
20 may adopt guidelines, including conditions, under which a disqualification for life under  
21 this subsection may be reduced to 10 years.

22 (b1) Life Without Reduction. – A person is disqualified from driving a  
23 commercial motor vehicle for life, without the possibility of reinstatement after 10  
24 years, if that person is convicted of a third or subsequent violation of G.S. 20-138.2, a  
25 fourth or subsequent violation of G.S. 20-138.2A, or if the person refuses to submit to a  
26 chemical test a third time when charged with an implied-consent offense, as defined in  
27 G.S. 20-16.2, that occurred while the person was driving a commercial motor vehicle.

28 (c) ~~Life.~~Life Without Reduction. – A person is disqualified from driving a  
29 commercial motor vehicle for life if that person either uses a commercial motor vehicle  
30 in the commission of any felony involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing  
31 of a controlled substance, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or  
32 dispense a controlled ~~substance.~~substance or is the holder of a commercial drivers  
33 license at the time of the commission of any such felony.

34 (d) Less Than a Year. – A person is disqualified from driving a commercial  
35 motor vehicle for 60 days if that person is convicted of two serious traffic violations, or  
36 120 days if convicted of three or more serious traffic violations, arising from separate  
37 incidents occurring within a three-year period, committed in a commercial motor  
38 vehicle or while holding a commercial drivers license. ~~arising from separate incidents~~  
39 ~~occurring within a three-year period.~~ This disqualification shall be in addition to, and  
40 shall be served at the end of, any other prior disqualification. For purposes of this  
41 subsection, a "serious violation" includes violations of G.S. 20-140(f) and  
42 G.S. 20-141(j3).

43 (e) Three Years. – A person is disqualified from driving a commercial motor  
44 vehicle for three years if that person is convicted of an offense or commits an act

1 requiring disqualification under subsection (a) and the offense or act occurred while the  
2 person was transporting a hazardous material that required the motor vehicle driven to  
3 be placarded.

4 (f) Revocation Period. – A person is disqualified from driving a commercial  
5 motor vehicle for the period during which the person's regular or commercial drivers  
6 license is revoked, suspended, or cancelled.

7 (g) Violation of Out-of-Service Order. – Any person convicted for violating an  
8 out-of-service order, except as described in subsection (h) of this section, shall be  
9 disqualified as follows:

10 (1) A person is disqualified from driving a commercial vehicle for a  
11 period of 90 days if convicted of a first violation of an out-of-service  
12 order.

13 (2) A person is disqualified for a period of one year if convicted of a  
14 second violation of an out-of-service order during any 10-year period,  
15 arising from separate incidents.

16 (3) A person is disqualified for a period of three years if convicted of a  
17 third or subsequent violation of an out-of-service order during any  
18 10-year period, arising from separate incidents.

19 (h) Violation of Out-of-Service Order; Special Rule for Hazardous Materials and  
20 Passenger Offenses. – Any person convicted for violating an out-of-service order while  
21 transporting hazardous materials or while operating a commercial vehicle designed or  
22 used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, shall be disqualified as  
23 follows:

24 (1) A person is disqualified for a period of 180 days if convicted of a first  
25 violation of an out-of-service order.

26 (2) A person is disqualified for a period of three years if convicted of a  
27 second or subsequent violation of an out-of-service order during any  
28 10-year period, arising from separate incidents.

29 (i) Disqualification for Out-of-State Violations. – The Division shall withdraw  
30 the privilege to operate a commercial vehicle of any resident of this State or person  
31 transferring to this State upon receiving notice of the person's conviction or  
32 Administrative Per Se Notice in another state for an offense that, if committed in this  
33 State, would be grounds for disqualification, even if the offense occurred in another  
34 jurisdiction prior to being licensed in this State where no action had been taken at that  
35 time in the other jurisdiction. The period of disqualification shall be the same as if the  
36 offense occurred in this State.

37 (j) Disqualification of Persons Without Commercial Drivers Licenses. – Any  
38 person convicted of an offense that requires disqualification under this section, but who  
39 does not hold a commercial drivers license, shall be disqualified from operating a  
40 commercial vehicle in the same manner as if the person held a valid commercial drivers  
41 license.

42 (k) Disqualification for Railroad Grade Crossing Offenses. – Any person  
43 convicted of a violation of G.S. 20-142.1 through G.S. 20-142.5, when the driver is

1 operating a commercial motor vehicle, shall be disqualified from driving a commercial  
2 motor vehicle as follows:

- 3 (1) A person is disqualified for a period of 60 days if convicted of a first  
4 violation of a railroad grade crossing offense listed in this subsection.
- 5 (2) A person is disqualified for a period of 120 days if convicted during  
6 any three-year period of a second violation of any combination of  
7 railroad grade crossing offenses listed in this subsection.
- 8 (3) A person is disqualified for a period of one year if convicted during  
9 any three-year period of a third or subsequent violation of any  
10 combination of railroad grade crossing offenses listed in this  
11 subsection.

12 (l) ~~Disqualification Based on~~ for Testing Positive in a Drug or Alcohol Test. –  
13 Upon receipt of notice of a positive drug or alcohol test, or of refusal to participate in a  
14 drug or alcohol test, pursuant to G.S. 20-37.19(c), the Division must disqualify a CDL  
15 holder from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a minimum of 30 days and until  
16 receipt of proof of successful completion of assessment and treatment by a substance  
17 abuse professional in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 382.503.

18 (m) Disqualifications of Drivers Who Are Determined to Constitute an Imminent  
19 Hazard. – The Division shall withdraw the privilege to operate a commercial motor  
20 vehicle for any resident of this State for a period of 30 days in accordance with 49  
21 C.F.R. § 383.52."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-37.20A reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 20-37.20A. Driving record notation for testing positive in a drug or alcohol test.**

24 Upon receipt of notice pursuant to G.S. 20-37.19(c) of positive result in an alcohol  
25 or drug test of a person holding a commercial drivers license, and subject to any appeal  
26 of the disqualification pursuant to G.S. 20-37.20B, the Division shall place a notation on  
27 the driving record of the driver. A notation of a disqualification pursuant to  
28 G.S. 20-17.4(l) shall be retained on the record of a person for a period of ~~two~~ three years  
29 following the end of any disqualification of that person."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2008, and applies to  
31 offenses committed on or after that date.