

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

H

2

HOUSE BILL 780*
Corrected Copy 3/19/07

Short Title: Drivers License Issuance/Expiration Dates. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Harrison (Primary Sponsors); and Alexander.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

March 15, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CORRECT A PROCEDURAL TECHNICAL ERROR IN THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN APPLICANT PRESENT A VISA OF LIMITED DURATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND TO CORRECT AN APPARENT ERROR IN THE EXPIRATION DATE FOR DRIVERS LICENSES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 20-7. Issuance and renewal of drivers licenses.

...

(f) Duration and Renewal of Licenses. – Drivers licenses shall be issued and renewed pursuant to the provisions of this ~~subsection~~subsection:

(1) Duration of license for persons under age 18. – A full provisional license issued to a person under the age of 18 ~~shall expire~~expires on the person's twenty-first birthday.

(2) Duration of original license for persons at least 18 years of age or older. – A drivers license issued to a person at least 18 years old but less than 54 years old ~~expires eight years after the date of issuance~~on the birthday of the licensee in the eighth year after issuance. A drivers license issued to a person at least 54 years old ~~expires five years after the date of issuance~~on the birthday of the licensee in the fifth year after issuance.

(2a) Duration of renewed licenses. – A renewed drivers license that was issued by the Division to a person at least 18 years old but less than 54 years old expires eight years after the expiration date of the license that is renewed. A renewed drivers license that was issued by the Division to a person at least 54 years old expires five years after the expiration date of the license that is renewed.

1 (3) ~~Duration of license for certain other drivers. — A drivers license~~
 2 ~~that was issued by the Division and is renewed by the Division expires~~
 3 ~~at the end of the period provided by this subsection after the expiration~~
 4 ~~date of the license that is renewed. The durations listed in subdivisions~~
 5 ~~(1), (2), and (2a) of this subsection are valid unless the Division~~
 6 ~~determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued when the~~
 7 ~~applicant holds a visa of limited duration from the United States~~
 8 ~~Department of Homeland Security, but in no event shall the license~~
 9 ~~expire later than the applicant's lawful presence in the United States. A~~
 10 ~~person may apply to the Division to renew a license during the~~
 11 ~~180-day period before the license expires. The Division may not~~
 12 ~~accept an application for renewal made before the 180-day period~~
 13 ~~begins.~~

14 (3a) When to renew. — A person may apply to the Division to renew a
 15 license during the 180-day period before the license expires. The
 16 Division may not accept an application for renewal made before the
 17 180-day period begins.

18 (4) Renewal by mail. — The Division may renew by mail a drivers license
 19 issued by the Division to a person who meets any of the following
 20 descriptions:

21 a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United
 22 States and is stationed outside this State.

23 b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside the State
 24 for at least 30 continuous days.

25 When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the
 26 examination that would otherwise be required for the renewal and may
 27 impose any conditions it finds advisable. A license renewed by mail is
 28 a temporary license that expires 60 days after the person to whom it is
 29 issued returns to this State.

30 (5) **(Effective July 1, 2008)** License to be sent by mail. — The Division
 31 shall issue to the applicant a temporary driving certificate valid for 20
 32 days, unless the applicant is applying for renewal by mail under
 33 subdivision (4) of this subsection. The temporary driving certificate
 34 shall be valid for driving purposes only and shall not be valid for
 35 identification purposes. The Division shall produce the applicant's
 36 drivers license at a central location and send it to the applicant by
 37 first-class mail at the residence address provided by the applicant.

38 "

39 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-7(f)(3), as amended by Section 1 of this act, reads as

40 rewritten:

41 **"§ 20-7. Issuance and renewal of drivers licenses.**

42 ...

43 (f) **Duration and Renewal of Licenses.** — Drivers licenses shall be issued and
 44 renewed pursuant to the provisions of this subsection:

1 ...
 2 (3) Duration of license for certain other drivers. –The durations listed in
 3 subdivisions (1), (2) and (2a) if this subsection are valid unless the
 4 Division determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued
 5 when the applicant holds a ~~visa of limited duration from the United~~
 6 ~~States Department of Homeland Security, but in no event shall the~~
 7 ~~license expire later than the applicant's lawful presence in the United~~
 8 ~~States.~~valid documentation issued by, or under the authority of, the
 9 United States government that demonstrates the applicant's legal
 10 presence of limited duration in the United States. In no event shall a
 11 license of limited duration expire later than the expiration of the
 12 authorization for the applicant's legal presence in the United States."

13 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-7(s) reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 20-7. Issuance and renewal of drivers licenses.**

15 ...
 16 (s) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b1) of this section that an
 17 applicant present a valid social security number, the Division shall issue a drivers
 18 license of limited duration, under subsection (f) of this section, to an applicant present in
 19 the United States ~~under a valid visa issued to the applicant by the United States~~
 20 ~~Department of Homeland Security if the applicant presents that valid visa.~~who holds
 21 valid documentation issued by, or under the authority of, the United States government
 22 that demonstrates the applicant's legal presence of limited duration in the United States
 23 if the applicant presents that valid documentation and meets all other requirements for a
 24 license of limited duration."

25 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 20-4.01. Definitions.**

27 Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout
 28 this Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

29 ...
 30 (2) Canceled. – As applied to drivers' licenses and permits, a declaration
 31 that a license or permit which was issued through error or ~~fraud~~fraud,
 32 or to which G.S. 20-15(a)(3) applies, is void and terminated.

33"

34 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-15(a) reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 20-15. Authority of Division to cancel license or endorsement.**

36 (a) The Division shall have authority to cancel any driver's license upon
 37 determining ~~that the licensee was not entitled to the issuance thereof hereunder, or that~~
 38 ~~said licensee failed to give the required or correct information in his application, or~~
 39 ~~committed fraud in making such application.~~any of the following:

40 (1) The licensee was not entitled to the issuance of the license under this
 41 Chapter.

42 (2) The licensee failed to give the required or correct information on the
 43 license application or committed fraud in making the application.

1 (3) The licensee is no longer authorized under federal law to be legally
2 present in the United States."

3 **SECTION 6.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2007, and
4 applies to drivers licenses issued or renewed on or after that date. Sections 2 through 5
5 are effective when this act becomes law and applies to drivers licenses issued or
6 renewed on or after that date. Section 6 of this act is effective when it becomes law.