



HOUSE BILL 1189: Driver Education COVID-19 Response.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 3, 2020
Introduced by:	Reps. Elmore, Torbett, Hurley	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Third Edition as amended		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 1189 would provide accommodations for students enrolled in a driver education course in the spring semester of 2020 and require the Department of Motor Vehicles to waive the road test requirement for applicants for limited provisional licenses if applicants meet other statutory requirements.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-215, G.S. 115C-216, and the State Board of Education Policy DRIV-004 set the guidelines for the driver education program. Enrollees must complete at least 30 hours of classroom instruction or take and pass the Department of Public Instruction proficiency examination. Each student must also complete a minimum of 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. For a person under 18, passage of the driver education program is a requirement to receive a limited learner's permit under G.S. 20-11.

G.S. 20-11 sets guidelines on the issuance of a limited provisional license to a person less than 18 years old. A person eligible for a limited provisional license must, among other qualifications, pass a road test.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would deem complete required classroom instruction for students enrolled in classroom driver education between January 2020 and March 16, 2020 who completed at least 15 hours of classroom instruction. It would also ensure students who completed less than 15 hours could be offered the opportunity to take a proficiency examination to waive the classroom instruction requirement entirely. It would clarify that behind-the-wheel instruction is not waived for students. Sec. 1 would authorize public schools to resume driver education programs in accordance with guidance issued by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Section 2 would require the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to temporarily waive the requirement that applicants pass a road test to obtain a limited provisional license. This section would expire the earlier of when the DMV resumes road test administration or 180 days from the effective date of the act.

Section 3 would appropriate \$10,000 to the DMV to maintain a list of individuals issued a limited provisional license without a road test. This section would become effective July 1, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act would become effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
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