



HOUSE BILL 211: Various DMV Changes.

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 18, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Shepard	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 211 would make the following changes to laws relating to motor vehicles:

- Amend the definitions of fuel cell and plug-in electric vehicles to clarify that they cannot have the ability to be propelled by a gasoline engine.
- Eliminate the requirement for a signature space on a registration card.
- Authorize remote conversion of a provisional license to a regular drivers license.
- Require the Division of Motor Vehicles to waive lapse in financial responsibility penalties under certain circumstances when a person has moved to another state.

CURRENT LAW/BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 211 would make changes to motor vehicle-related laws as follows:

Section 1 would amend current definitions within G.S. 20-4.01, applicable to fuel cell electric and plug-in electric vehicles, to clarify that those vehicles cannot have the ability to be propelled by a gasoline engine. Fuel cell electric vehicles and plug-in electric vehicles are not required to undergo emissions inspections pursuant to G.S. 20-183.2, nor are they subject to the HOV lane restrictions pursuant to G.S. 20-146.2, under certain circumstances.

Section 2. S.L. 2016-90, Section 12.(a), repealed the requirement for an owner to sign a motor vehicle registration card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. This section would make a technical correction to repeal the requirement that there be a space for the owner's signature on the registration card.

Section 3 would authorize remote conversion of a full provisional license to a regular drivers license. It would also provide that a full provisional license expires 60 days after the holder's 21st birthday, rather than on the 21st birthday. It would also authorize a person remotely renewing or converting a license to update his or her address.

Sections 4. Current law requires the owner of a motor vehicle that is registered or is required to be registered to have a motor vehicle liability policy. If the liability policy lapses during that motor vehicle's registration period, the Division is authorized to take action as outlined in G.S. 20-311. Under current law, if a vehicle owner cancels a North Carolina liability policy in the process of moving out-of-state and prior to registering that same vehicle out-of-state, the owner may be assessed a penalty.

This section would require the Division to waive the monetary penalty and restoration fee for a lapse in liability insurance coverage if the owner of the vehicle meets all of the following requirements:

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- The owner has become a resident of another state and has registered the owner's vehicle in that state within 30 days of the cancellation or expiration of the owner's North Carolina motor vehicle liability policy.
- The owner has submitted a copy of their current out of state registration card to the Division.
- The owner has returned the North Carolina registration plate or has submitted an affidavit indicating that the North Carolina registration plate has been lost, stolen, or destroyed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

Howard Marsilio, counsel to House Transportation, substantially contributed to this summary.