



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

HOUSE BILL 297: DMV Deployed Armed Forces Exemptions.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 5, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Winslow, Cleveland, Goodwin, Zenger	Prepared by:	Kellette Wade*
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 297 would create an additional defense to driving with an expired license and waive the late fee for renewing an expired registration for deployed members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

G.S. 20-35 provides the criminal penalties for driving without a license and allows an individual to produce a drivers license in court as a defense to the offense of driving without a license.

Section 1 of House Bill 297 would allow an individual who had been deployed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States when the license expired to produce a drivers license and proof of deployment in court as a defense to the offense of driving without a license if the license was renewed within 30 days of returning from deployment.

G.S. 20-88.03 provides a schedule of late fees (\$15.00, \$20.00, or \$25.00) for failure to pay the applicable registration fee on time.

Section 2 of House Bill 297 would waive the late fee for a deployed member of the Armed Forces if the person obtains a renewed registration within 30 days after the deployment ends.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 would become effective December 1, 2021, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of the act would become effective October 1, 2021.

**Jennifer Bedford, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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