



HOUSE BILL 297: DMV Deployed Armed Forces Exemptions.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	May 6, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Winslow, Cleveland, Goodwin, Zenger	Prepared by:	Kellette Wade
Analysis of:	Fourth Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 297 would direct the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to offer remote conversion of full provisional licenses if the license holder is a deployed, out-of-state member of the Armed Forces of the United States, 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

G.S. 20-7(f)(6) allows DMV to offer remote renewal of a drivers license or remote conversion of a full provision license, and provides eligibility requirements.

S.L. 2019-227 amended G.S. 20-7 to allow individuals to comply with the address requirement by providing the address where the license holder resides at the time the remote renewal or conversion is requested, in the event that that address is different than the one on the license.

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.

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.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of House Bill 297 would direct DMV to offer remote conversion for full provisional license holders if the individual is deployed out-of-state as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Section 2 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.

Section 3 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 2 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, and Section 1 would apply to any application to remotely convert a provisional license submitted on or after that date.

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

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