



HOUSE BILL 297: Division of Motor Vehicles Deployed Armed Forces Exemptions.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	February 23, 2022
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Kellette Wade
Analysis of:	S.L. 2021-89		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2021-89 provides for the remote conversion of a full provisional license to a regular drivers license, creates an additional defense to driving with an expired license, and waives the late fee for renewing an expired license for deployed active-duty servicemembers.*

The provision that provides a defense to driving with an expired license became effective on December 1, 2021, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of the act became effective on October 1, 2021, with the provision on remote license conversion applicable to any application to remotely convert a full provisional license submitted on or after that date.

CURRENT LAW:

- G.S. 20-7(f)(6) allows the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to offer remote renewal of a drivers license or remote conversion of a full provisional license and provides eligibility requirements.
- 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 directs the 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 allows an individual who had been deployed 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 waives the late fee for expired motor vehicle registration if the person was a deployed member of the Armed Forces when the registration expired, and the person obtains a renewed registration within 30 days after the deployment ends.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 2 of the act became effective on December 1, 2021, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of the act became effective on October 1, 2021, with Section 1 applicable to any application to remotely convert a full provisional license submitted on or after that date.

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Legislative Analysis
Division
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