



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

HOUSE BILL 780: NC Special ID Cards for High School Students.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House State Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 3, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Budd, Torbett, Pickett	Prepared by:	Kellette Wade
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H780-CSBW-12		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 780 would allow North Carolina residents who are at least 16 years old to obtain a special identification card under G.S. 20-37.7 for free and establish a pilot program to issue special identification cards to students in public high schools in Anson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties.

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 780 makes technical changes and does the following:

- Updates pilot program establishment and expiration dates to October 1, 2025, and December 31, 2027, respectively.
- Clarifies that the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will cover expenses for the birth certificates provided under the pilot program.
- Includes clarifying language that G.S. 20-37.7 prevails if in conflict with the pilot program.

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 20-37.7, a person who is a resident of this State is eligible for a special identification card. Certain individuals may obtain a special identification card without paying a fee, including those who are at least 17 years old. To obtain a special identification card from DMV, a person must complete the application form used to obtain a drivers license. The following must also be presented: (i) one document verifying age and identity (such as a birth certificate or passport); (ii) social security card or document verifying that the person has a social security number; and (iii) proof of residency in the State (for those under 18, school records are acceptable). For non-United States citizens, one document issued by the United States government indicating legal presence is also needed. For a NC REAL ID, the following are needed: (i) one document verifying age and identity; (ii) social security card or document verifying that the person has a social security number; and (iii) two documents proving North Carolina residency with current physical address (for those under 18, school records and tax records listing minors as dependents are acceptable). For non-United States citizens, one document issued by the United States government indicating legal presence is also needed.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 780 would allow applicants for a North Carolina special identification card who are at least 16 years old to obtain the card for free.

The PCS for House Bill 780 would also require the DMV to work with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the governing bodies of public-school units in Anson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties that have high schools to establish and implement a pilot program no later than October

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1, 2025, to issue special identification cards to eligible students in public high schools. The pilot program expires on December 31, 2027.

The pilot program must meet the following requirements:

- Students who are at least 16 years old and enrolled in a public high school located within Anson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, or Union Counties would be eligible to receive special identification cards issued by DMV.
- DMV, DPI, and the governing bodies of the participating public school units must provide information to students and parents regarding the issuance of the special identification cards.
- DMV, DPI, and the governing bodies of the participating public-school units must coordinate scheduled times to give students the opportunity to obtain the special identification cards. Time to obtain the cards must be scheduled on one instructional day prior to December 31 of the school year and one instructional day after December 31 of the school year.
- If students must travel to a DMV location to obtain the special identification card, the DMV must have a dedicated terminal for the students during that time. A DMV mobile office can also be used to satisfy this requirement.
- If the student requests, the student's high school must provide DMV with the information required to complete a special identification card application.
- The State Registrar is authorized to issue a certified copy of a student's birth certificate, at DMV's expense, to the governing body of a public high school or the DMV upon a student's request in connection with the application for a special identification card.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law.

Drupti Chauhan, Legislative Analysis Division Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.