



# HOUSE BILL 29: Use Tribal ID for Alcohol & Tobacco Purchase.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs. If favorable, re-refer to Alcoholic Beverage Control. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	February 26, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Clampitt	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Debbie Griffiths Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

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**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 29 would amend G.S. 18B-302(d) and G.S. 14-313 to add tribal enrollment cards issued by State or federally recognized Indian Tribes to the list of acceptable identification cards to verify proof of age to purchase alcohol, tobacco products, and cigarette wrapping papers.

## SECTION 1. ALCOHOL SALES

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 18B-302(a) makes it unlawful to sell alcoholic beverages to anyone less than 21 years old. It is a defense to a charge of making an unlawful sale of alcohol to an underaged person that the seller relied upon either:

- the buyer's presentation of a driver's license, state issued special identification card, military identification card, or passport showing the purchaser's age to be at least the required age for purchase and bearing a physical description of the named person reasonably describing the purchaser; or
- a biometric identification system that verifies the purchaser's age when the purchaser has previously registered their driver's license, state issued special identification card, military identification card, or passport containing the purchaser's age and physical description of the named person.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 1 would add tribal enrollment cards issued by State or federally recognized Indian Tribes which contain the purchaser's age and a physical description of the named person to the list of accepted documentation for defense against the charge of selling alcohol to underaged persons.

## SECTION 2. TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND CIGARETTE WRAPPING PAPER SALES

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 14-313 makes it unlawful to sell or distribute tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers to any individual under the age of 18 years or to assist, aid, or abet any other person in doing so.

A seller of tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers is required to demand proof of age if they reasonably believe the purchaser is less than 18 years old. G.S. 14-313(a)(2) defines proof of age as a driver's license or other photographic identification that includes the bearer's date of birth establishing that the person is 18 years of age or older.

It is a defense to the criminal charge of selling tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers to an underaged person that the seller relied upon documents constituting proof of age or a biometric identification system that verifies the purchaser's age when the purchaser has previously registered their driver's license, state issued special identification card, military identification card, or passport containing the purchaser's age and physical description.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 2 would add tribal enrollment cards issued by State or federally recognized Indian Tribes to the list of allowed documents for proof of age or use of a biometric identification system for the defense against the charge of selling tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers to underaged persons.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed and purchases made on or after that date.

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Legislative Analysis  
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