



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

HOUSE BILL 584: Permit/Provisional License Modifications.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 30, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Willis, Johnson, McNeely, Gable	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H584-CSSU-6		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 584 would amend the graduated drivers licensing law as follows:*

- *Eliminate the driving log requirements for teen drivers holding a Level 1 limited learner's permit or a Level 2 limited provisional license.*
- *Eliminate the requirement that a teen have a driving eligibility certificate in order to obtain and maintain a permit or provisional license under graduated licensing.*
- *Allow a teen who holds a Level 2 limited provisional license to apply for a Level 3 full provisional license remotely and have the license issued without having to appear in person at a drivers license office.*
- *Temporarily reduce the minimum time period required for holding a Level 1 limited learner's permit before being eligible to apply for a Level 2 limited provisional license from 9 months to 6 months.*

CURRENT LAW: Under North Carolina’s graduated drivers licensing statute (G.S. 20-11), there are three levels of driving privileges for persons less than 18 years old: Level 1 – limited learner's permit; Level 2 – limited provisional license; and Level 3 – full provisional license. Each level has different statutory requirements for eligibility and restrictions that apply to the privilege (see chart on page 3 for detailed requirements and restrictions for each level.) In addition to other requirements, a teen must hold a Level 1 limited learner's permit for a minimum of nine months and log 60 hours of driving time before being eligible to apply for a Level 2 limited provisional license, and a teen must hold a Level 2 limited provisional license for a minimum of 6 months and log 12 hours of driving time before being eligible to apply for a Level 3. A Level 3 full provisional licensee is not subject to any limitations regarding time of driving, supervision, or passengers.

In order to be eligible to obtain a permit or license under graduated licensing, a teen driver must have a high school diploma or its equivalent or have a driving eligibility certificate issued by the appropriate school authority. A driving eligibility certificate indicates that the teen is enrolled in school and making progress toward obtaining a diploma or cannot make progress or would suffer substantial hardship if he or she does not receive a certificate. A driving eligibility certificate must be issued within 30 days of the date the teen applies for a permit, and it must be maintained as long as the teen holds a permit or license under graduated licensing. The school authority is required to notify the Division of Motor Vehicles if the teen no longer meets eligibility requirements, and the Division is then required to revoke the license or permit.

Kara McCraw
Director



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BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 584 would amend North Carolina's graduated licensing law in the following ways:

Eliminate driving log requirements for Level 1 permittees and Level 2 licensees. Section 1 would eliminate the requirement that a Level 1 limited learner's permit holder log 60 hours of driving time before being eligible to apply for a Level 2 limited provisional license. It would also eliminate the requirement that a Level 2 limited provisional license holder log 12 hours of driving time before being eligible to apply for a Level 3 full provisional license.

Eliminate driving eligibility certificates. Section 1 would also eliminate the requirement that a teen driver have a high school diploma or its equivalent or have a driving eligibility certificate in order to get and maintain a permit or provisional license under graduated drivers licensing. Section 3 would make conforming changes to statutes related to driving eligibility certificate issuance, requirements, notifications, and license revocations due to ineligibility.

Allow online application for Level 3 full provisional license. Section 2 would authorize a teen who meets requirements for a Level 3 full provisional license to apply for the license online. The Division of Motor Vehicles would be directed to develop a process to allow required documentation to be submitted electronically or by mail without requiring an applicant to appear in person at a drivers license office.

Temporary reduction in the minimum holding time for Level 1 limited learner's permit. Section 4 would temporarily reduce the current 9-month minimum requirement for holding a Level 1 limited learner's permit before being eligible to obtain a Level 2 limited provisional license to a 6-month minimum requirement. The temporary reduction would be effective when the act becomes law and would expire on December 31, 2025, at which time the 9-month requirement would go back into effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Provisions of the act eliminating driving log and driving eligibility certificates and allowing for online applications for Level 3 full provisional licenses would become effective October 1, 2025, and would apply to permit and provisional license applications submitted on or after that date. The temporary reduction in the minimum holding period for Level 1 limited learner's permits would be effective when it becomes law and would expire on December 31, 2025. The remainder of the act would be effective when it becomes law.

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GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSE PROVISIONS (G.S. 20-11)

	LEVEL 1 – Limited Learner's Permit	LEVEL 2 – Limited Provisional License	LEVEL 3 – Full Provisional License
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Eligible at 15. · Passes driver education course. · Passes DMV written test. · Has driving eligibility certificate, high school diploma, or equivalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Eligible at 16. · Has held a Level 1 permit for at least 9 months. · Has no convictions for moving violations, seat belt infractions, or violations of mobile phone prohibition within the last 6 months. · Passes DMV road test. · Has driving eligibility certificate, high school diploma, or equivalent. · 60 logged hours driving, 10 at night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Eligible at 16.5. · Has held a Level 2 license for at least 6 months. · Has no convictions for moving violations, seat belt infractions, or violations of mobile phone prohibition within the last 6 months. · Has driving eligibility certificate, high school diploma, or equivalent. · 12 logged hours driving, 6 at night.
TIME RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 5:00 am – 9:00 pm for first 6 months. · After 6 months, no restriction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · If supervised, no restriction. · If unsupervised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 5:00 am – 9:00 pm. o Driving directly to or from work. o Driving directly to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, rescue squad, or emergency medical service. 	NONE
SUPERVISION	Supervision required at all times, and the supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle.	When supervision is required, the supervising driver must be seated beside the license holder in the front seat of the vehicle.	NONE
PASSENGER LIMITATIONS	Only the supervising driver may be in the front seat.	If unsupervised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Only one non-family or household member passenger under the age of 21, but only if no family member or household passenger is under 21, except one passenger under 21 in addition to family if the passenger is a student traveling directly to and from school. · No limitation on passengers who are family members or members of the same household or over the age of 21. 	NONE
USE OF MOBILE PHONE	All use prohibited.	All use prohibited	Use prohibited except in emergencies and calling parent, guardian, or spouse.

*All drivers must be in possession of license or permit when driving, and every person occupying the vehicle must have a safety belt properly fastened or be restrained by child passenger restraint system when the vehicle is in motion.

*A "supervising driver" is a parent, grandparent, guardian, or responsible person approved by the parent, guardian, or DMV, who has been a licensed driver for at least five years.