



HOUSE BILL 829: Locksmith Licensing Act Modernization.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 10, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Schietzelt, Winslow, Chesser	Prepared by:	Ike McRee
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 829 would amend various sections of Chapter 74F of the General Statutes governing the licensure of locksmiths.*

CURRENT LAW: Prior to 2002, locksmiths were not licensed or regulated in this State. In 2001, the General Assembly enacted the Locksmith Licensing Act (Act) establishing the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board and providing the qualifications for licensure. To become licensed, an applicant must meet the following qualifications under G.S. 74F-7:

- (1) Be of good moral and ethical character, as evidenced in part by a criminal history record check.
- (2) Be at least 18 years of age.
- (3) Successfully complete an examination administered by the Board that measures the knowledge and skill of the applicant in locksmith services and the laws applicable to licensed locksmiths.
- (4) Pay the required fee.

Performing locksmith services without a license is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor for the first offense unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing for greater punishment. A second or subsequent offense is a Class I felony. (G.S. 74F-3).

“*Locksmith services*” is defined as repairing, rebuilding, rekeying, repinning, servicing, adjusting, or installing locks mechanical or electronic locking devices, access control devices, egress control devices, safes, vaults, and safe deposit boxes for compensation or other consideration, including services performed by safe technicians. The definition also includes any method of bypassing a locking mechanism of any kind for compensation. (G.S. 74F-4).

There are 13 exemptions from licensure, including: an employee acting under the control and supervision of a licensed locksmith, an employee of a locksmith company performing administrative duties only, an apprentice, an employee of a towing service, an automotive repair business, a reposessor, a taxicab service as long as the person does not represent himself to be a locksmith, a property owner providing locksmith services on the owner's property, a merchant that duplicates keys or maintains locks in the normal course of business, or a member of law enforcement who opens locked doors to vehicles, homes, or businesses when acting within the scope and course of the member's employment. (G.S. 74F-16).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of House Bill 829 would do the following:

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

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- Amend G.S. 74F-3 to (i) no longer limit locksmith services requiring licensure to service buildings containing medical records, pharmaceutical records, educational records, criminal records, voting records, tax records, legal records, or personnel records, (ii) make the Chapter applicable to corporations, companies, firms, associations, or sole proprietorships that provide locksmith services to the public, and (iii) require a licensed locksmith that owns one of the listed entities which provides locksmith services to obtain a locksmith business license and require annual renewal of locksmith business licenses.
- Amend the definition of "locksmith" under G.S. 74F-4 conditioning the practice of locksmith services upon a locksmith owning or being an employee or agent of a locksmith business and amend the definition of "locksmith business."
- Amend G.S. 74-7 to (i) add qualifications for licensure, (ii) require applications for licensure to be made on forms provided by the Locksmith Licensing Board (Board), (iii) establish required content for the licensure application, and (iv) require at least one person that is a member of a licensed locksmith business to be an active licensed locksmith.
- Amend G.S. 74F-7.1 to (i) add completion of 16 hours of Board approved technical locksmith training to the qualifications for apprentices, (ii) require apprentices to display a badge card when providing services, (iii) allow for a one-time renewal of the apprentice license, (iv) require apprentices to give the Board written notice within 15 days of termination of employment with their supervising locksmith, and (v) establish a 15-day period within which the licensed locksmith is required to contact the Board upon termination of apprentice supervision.
- Amend G.S. 74F-9 to set the cap for a business license fee at \$100.
- Amend G.S. 74F-15 to expand the Board's disciplinary authority to include denying or refusing issuance of a license and grant the Board additional authority to place on probation, refuse to issue or renew, suspend, or revoke a locksmith business license when an individual under the direct control and supervision of a licensed locksmith working for the licensed business violates any provision of the Chapter or Board rules.
- Amend G.S. 74F-16(1) and the definition of "direct control and supervision" to require that the licensed locksmith remain present at all times an employee is engaged in the practice of locksmith services for a licensure exemption to apply and expand licensure exemption to include emergency roadside assistance services and auto parts stores.
- Amend G.S. 7F-17 to authorize a court to award attorneys' fees and costs to the Board in a successful action for an injunction for Chapter violations.

Section 2 of House Bill 829 would authorize the Board to adopt rules to implement the provisions of Section 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 of the act would become effective October 1, 2025. The remainder of the act would become effective when the act becomes law.