



# SENATE BILL 245: Expand Remote Drivers License Services.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	July 29, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. B. Newton, Lazzara, Brinson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition S245-CSSU-17		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for Senate Bill 245 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to provide the following additional remote drivers license services:*

- *Remote renewal of drivers license if the license holder's most recent transaction was in person.*
- *Second consecutive remote renewal for license holders who meet certain conditions.*
- *Remote issuance of full provisional licenses under graduated licensing.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles currently issues drivers licenses in accordance with statutory requirements set out in G.S. 20-7. The duration of licenses issued to persons aged 18-66 is generally eight years. G.S. 20-7(f)(6) provides that the Division of Motor Vehicles may offer remote renewal of drivers licenses to persons who meet eligibility requirements. One of the eligibility requirements for renewal is that the most recent renewal must have been in person and not remote. This complies with federal regulations, which provide that states must require holders of REAL ID drivers licenses to renew licenses in person no less frequently than every sixteen years.

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. One requirement is that a Level 2 limited provisional license holder must submit a driving log with 12 hours of driving time in order to be eligible for a Level 3 full provisional license. Currently, teens are required to appear in person to apply for each permit or license.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for Senate Bill 245 would do all of the following:

- Allow remote renewal of a drivers license if the license holder's last transaction was in person and included a new photograph, even if the renewal prior to the in-person transaction was done remotely. The intervening in-person transaction with photograph would be considered the equivalent of an in-person renewal for purposes of meeting federal REAL ID requirements.
- Allow a second consecutive remote renewal of a drivers license if the license being renewed is not a REAL ID or if it is a REAL ID but is being converted to a non-REAL ID license in order to renew. (Section 3 would repeal a provision enacted earlier this year to allow this for active duty military members since this would incorporate the same language and broaden its application.)

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- Eliminate the requirement that a Level 2 limited provisional license holder submit a driving log in order to apply for a Level 3 full provisional license and allow remote issuance of the Level 3 full provisional license.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to licenses issued or renewed on or after that date.