

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 809

Short Title: Military Admission Fee Waiver/NCDL Renewal. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Jones.

Referred to: Commerce.

March 25, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO GRANT MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE MILITARY FREE
3 ADMISSION TO STATE-OPERATED MUSEUMS AND STATE PARKS, TO
4 AUTHORIZE A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OR OF RESERVE
5 COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO RENEW A DRIVERS LICENSE UPON
6 RECEIPT OF DEPLOYMENT ORDERS, AND TO ALLOW A THIRTY-DAY GRACE
7 PERIOD FOR AN EXPIRED LICENSE UPON RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. G.S. 121-7.3 reads as rewritten:

10 "§ 121-7.3. Admission fees.

11 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the~~The~~ Department of Cultural Resources
12 may charge a reasonable admission fee to any museum administered by the Department.
13 Admission fees collected under this section are receipts of the Department and shall be
14 deposited in a nonreverting account. The Department shall retain unbudgeted receipts at the end
15 of each fiscal year, beginning June 30, 2004, and shall deposit these receipts into the account.
16 Funds in the account shall be used to support a portion of each museum's operation. The
17 Secretary may adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The Department
18 shall provide a quarterly report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
19 Operations as to the Department's or museums' anticipated use of funds or expenditures of
20 funds pursuant to this section.

21 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Cultural
22 Resources shall not charge any current member or veteran of the military an admission fee to
23 any museum administered by it. The Department may require proof that a person is a member
24 of the military or a veteran and may designate forms of identification that will constitute
25 sufficient evidence of this fact.

26 (c) As used in this section, "military" means the active and reserve components of the
27 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, North Carolina Army National Guard, North Carolina
28 Air National Guard, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard."

29 SECTION 2. G.S. 143B-73(2) reads as rewritten:

30 "(2) The U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Commission shall have the power and
31 duty to establish standards and adopt rules and regulations: (i) establishing
32 and providing for a proper charge for admission to the ~~ship;~~ship, subject to
33 G.S. 121-7.3(b); and (ii) for the maintenance and operation of the ship as a
34 permanent memorial and exhibit."

35 SECTION 3. G.S. 143B-73.1 reads as rewritten:

36 "§ 143B-73.1. U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Commission – duties.



1 The Commission shall have the further duty and authority to select an appropriate site for
2 the permanent berthing of the Battleship U.S.S. North Carolina, taking into consideration
3 factors including, but not limited to, the accessibility, location in relation to roads and
4 highways, scenic attraction, protection from hazards of weather, fire and sea, cost of site and
5 berthing, cooperation of local governmental authorities in securing, equipping, and maintaining
6 appropriate areas surrounding the site, and others which may affect the suitability of such site
7 for establishment of the ship as a permanent memorial and exhibit; to accept gifts, grants, and
8 donations for the purposes of this Article; to transport to, and berth the ship at the site; to ready
9 the ship for visitation by the public; subject to G.S. 121-7.3(b), to establish and provide for a
10 proper charge for admission to the ship, and for safekeeping of funds; to maintain and operate
11 the ship as a permanent memorial and exhibit; to acquire property, both real and personal, with
12 the approval of the Governor and the Council of State, and to accept donations of property,
13 both real and personal, from any source; to establish, supervise, manage and maintain in New
14 Hanover County with the approval and assistance of the Department of Cultural Resources
15 exhibits, dramas, cultural activities, museums, and records pertaining to the marine and naval
16 history of the State of North Carolina and the United States of America; to identify, preserve
17 and protect properties having historical, marine and naval significance to New Hanover
18 County, the State, its communities and counties and the nation; to establish and provide for a
19 proper charge for admission to all properties maintained and operated by the Commission in
20 New Hanover County; to otherwise provide in carrying out its duties for the establishment of
21 appropriate activities to encourage interest in the marine and naval history of North Carolina; to
22 perpetuate the memory of North Carolinians who gave their lives in the course of World War II
23 and in the events in which the battleship was a participant, and to allocate funds for the
24 fulfillment of the duties and authority herein provided as may be necessary and appropriate for
25 the purpose of this Article."

26 **SECTION 4.** Article 2C of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by
27 adding a new section to read:

28 "**§ 113-44.16. No admission fee for military.**

29 (a) The Department shall not charge any current member or veteran of the military an
30 admission fee to any State park administered by it. The Department may require proof that a
31 person is a member of the military or a veteran and may designate forms of identification that
32 will constitute sufficient evidence of this fact.

33 (b) As used in this section, "military" means the active and reserve components of the
34 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, North Carolina Army National Guard, North Carolina
35 Air National Guard, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard."

36 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-4.01 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

37 "(33c) Reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States. – The
38 organizations listed in Title 10 United States Code, section 10101, which
39 specifically includes the Army and Air National Guard."

40 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 20-7(f) reads as rewritten:

41 "(f) Duration and Renewal of Licenses. – Drivers licenses shall be issued and renewed
42 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection:

43 ...

44 (3b) Renewal for certain members of the Armed Forces and reserve components
45 of the Armed Forces.

46 a. The Division may renew a drivers license, without limitation on the
47 period of time before the license expires, if the person applying for
48 renewal is a member of the Armed Forces or of a reserve component
49 of the Armed Forces of the United States and provides orders that
50 place the member on active duty and duty station outside this State.

b. A person who is a member of the Armed Forces or of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States whose license bears an expiration date that occurred while the person was on active duty outside this State shall be considered to have a valid license until 30 days after the date of release from active duty upon showing proof of the release date, unless the license was rescinded, revoked, or otherwise invalidated under some other provision of law.

(4) Renewal by mail. – The Division may renew by mail a drivers license issued by the Division to a person who meets any of the following descriptions:

a. Is a member of the Armed Forces or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and is stationed outside this State.

b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside the State for at least 30 continuous days.

When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the examination that would otherwise be required for the renewal and may impose any conditions it finds advisable. A license renewed by mail is a temporary license that expires 60 days after the person to whom it is issued returns to this State.

...."

SECTION 7. G.S. 20-7(r) reads as rewritten:

"(r) Waiver of Vision Test. – The following license holders shall be exempt from any required eye exam when renewing a drivers license by mail under either subsection (f) of this section or subsection (q) of this section if, at the time of renewal, the license holder is serving in a combat zone or a qualified hazardous duty zone:

(1) A member of the ~~armed forces~~ Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) A member of ~~the national guard or of~~ a reserve component of the ~~armed forces~~ Armed Forces of the United States."

SECTION 8. The Revisor of Statutes shall change the term "armed forces" to "Armed Forces" wherever that term appears in Chapter 20 of the General Statutes.

SECTION 9. This act is effective when it becomes law, and Sections 5 through 7 apply to all licenses expiring on or after the effective date of this act.