

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 297  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/13/21  
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/5/21

Short Title: DMV Deployed Armed Forces Exemptions.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL DEFENSE TO DRIVING WITH AN EXPIRED  
3 LICENSE AND WAIVING THE LATE FEE FOR RENEWING AN EXPIRED  
4 REGISTRATION FOR PERSONS DEPLOYED AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED  
5 FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 20-35 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(d) Defense for Deployed Member of the Armed Forces of the United States. – A person  
9 may not be found responsible for driving a motor vehicle with an expired drivers license if, when  
10 tried for that offense, the person provides verifiable written proof of deployment and establishes  
11 the following:

- 12 (1) The person was deployed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United  
13 States when the drivers license expired.  
14 (2) The person obtained a renewed drivers license within 30 days after returning  
15 from deployment."

16 **SECTION 1.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to  
17 offenses committed on or after that date.

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-88.03 reads as rewritten:

19 "**§ 20-88.03. Late fee; motor vehicle registration.**

20 (a) Late Fee. – In addition to the applicable fees required under this Article for the  
21 registration of a motor vehicle and any interest assessed under G.S. 105-330.4, the Division shall  
22 charge a late fee according to the following schedule to a person who pays the applicable  
23 registration fee required under this Article after the registration expires:

- 24 (1) If the registration has been expired for less than one month, a late fee of fifteen  
25 dollars (\$15.00).  
26 (2) If the registration has been expired for one month or greater, but less than two  
27 months, a late fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00).  
28 (3) If the registration has been expired for two months or greater, a late fee of  
29 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

30 (a1) Waiver. – The Division shall waive the late fee assessed under subsection (a) of this  
31 section against a person who establishes the following:

- 32 (1) The person was deployed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United  
33 States when the registration expired.  
34 (2) The person obtained a renewed registration within 30 days after the  
35 deployment ended.



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2               **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective October 1,

3 2021.