

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 490  
Judiciary Committee Substitute Adopted 5/6/21

Short Title: License to Work.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REVISE CERTAIN LICENSE REVOCATION LAWS TO ENABLE ACCESS  
3 TO EMPLOYMENT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5  
6 **REVISE REVOCATION FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR PAY FINES AND**  
7 **PENALTIES**

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 20-24.1 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 20-24.1. Revocation for failure to appear or pay fine, penalty or costs for motor vehicle**  
10 **offenses.**

11 (a) The Division must revoke the driver's license of a person upon receipt of notice from  
12 a court that the person was charged with a motor vehicle offense and ~~he~~the person did one of the  
13 following:

14 (1) ~~failed~~Failed to appear, after being notified to do so, when the case was called  
15 for a trial or ~~hearing~~or hearing.

16 (2) ~~failed~~Failed to pay a fine, penalty, or court costs ordered by the court.

17 Revocation orders entered under the authority of this section are effective on the sixtieth day after  
18 the order is mailed or personally delivered to the person.

19 (b) ~~A~~Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a license revoked under this  
20 section remains revoked until ~~the person whose license has been revoked~~one of the following  
21 occurs:

22 (1) The person disposes of the charge in the trial division in which ~~he~~the person  
23 failed to appear when the case was last called for trial or ~~hearing~~or hearing.

24 (2) The person demonstrates to the court that ~~he~~the person is not the person  
25 charged with the ~~offense~~or offense.

26 (3) The person pays the penalty, fine, or costs ordered by the ~~court~~or court.

27 (4) The person demonstrates to the court that ~~his~~the person's failure to pay the  
28 penalty, fine, or costs was not willful and that ~~he~~the person is making a good  
29 faith effort to pay or that the penalty, fine, or costs should be remitted.

30 (5) The court orders any outstanding penalty, fine, or costs be made a civil  
31 judgment pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

32 Upon receipt of notice from the court that the person has satisfied the conditions of this subsection  
33 applicable to his case, the Division must restore the person's license as provided in subsection  
34 ~~(e)~~(c) of this section. In addition, if the person whose license is revoked is not a resident of this  
35 State, the Division may notify the driver licensing agency in the person's state of residence that  
36 the person's license to drive in this State has been revoked.



1 (b1) A defendant must be afforded an opportunity for a trial or a hearing within a  
2 reasonable time of the defendant's appearance. Upon motion of a defendant, the court must order  
3 that a hearing or a trial be heard within a reasonable time.

4 (c) If the person satisfies the conditions of subsection (b) of this section, that are  
5 applicable to ~~his~~ the person's case before the effective date of the revocation order, the revocation  
6 order and any entries on ~~his~~ the person's driving record relating to it shall be deleted and the  
7 person does not have to pay the restoration fee set by G.S. 20-7(i1). ~~For~~ Except as otherwise  
8 provided in subsection (g) of this section, for all other revocation orders issued pursuant to this  
9 section, G.S. 50-13.12 or G.S. 110-142.2, the person must pay the restoration fee and satisfy any  
10 other applicable requirements of this Article before the person may be relicensed.

11 (d) To facilitate the prompt return of licenses and to prevent unjustified charges of driving  
12 while license revoked, the clerk of court, upon request, must give the person a copy of the notice  
13 it sends to the Division to indicate that the person has complied with the conditions of subsection  
14 ~~(b)~~ (b) of this section, applicable to his case. If the person complies with the condition before the  
15 effective date of the revocation, the notice must indicate that the person is eligible to drive if ~~he~~  
16 the person is otherwise validly licensed.

17 (e) As used in this section and in G.S. 20-24.2, the word offense includes crimes and  
18 infractions created by this Chapter.

19 ~~(f) If a license is revoked under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, and for  
20 no other reason, the person subject to the order may apply to the court for a limited driving  
21 privilege valid for up to one year or until any fine, penalty, or court costs ordered by the court  
22 are paid. The court may grant the limited driving privilege in the same manner and under the  
23 terms and conditions prescribed in G.S. 20-16.1. A person is eligible to apply for a limited driving  
24 privilege under this subsection only if the person has not had a limited driving privilege granted  
25 under this subsection within the three years prior to application.~~

26 (g) Except for a revocation order entered under this section resulting from a charge of  
27 impaired driving, the Division shall lift a revocation for failure to appear pursuant to subdivision  
28 (1) of subsection (a) of this section 12 months after the effective date of revocation if the person  
29 furnishes proof to the satisfaction of the Division that the person is maintaining financial  
30 responsibility as provided in G.S. 20-279.21. Any person whose drivers license was  
31 unencumbered pursuant to this subsection who drives any motor vehicle on the highways of the  
32 State without maintaining financial responsibility is guilty of failure to maintain financial  
33 responsibility pursuant to G.S. 20-313 and driving while license revoked pursuant to  
34 G.S. 20-28(a4).

35 (h) A person may petition the court to order any penalty, fine, or costs which have  
36 resulted in a revocation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for at least  
37 12 months from the revocation's effective date and are not related to a conviction for an offense  
38 involving impaired driving be made a civil judgment. The court shall grant the petition if the  
39 person can show that the person has had no conviction for any traffic offense in the 12 months  
40 prior to the petition."

41 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 20-7(i1) reads as rewritten:

42 "(i1) Restoration Fee. – Any person whose drivers license has been revoked pursuant to  
43 the provisions of this Chapter, other than G.S. 20-17(a)(2) shall pay a restoration fee of sixty five  
44 dollars (\$65.00). A person whose drivers license has been revoked under G.S. 20-17(a)(2) shall  
45 pay a restoration fee of one hundred thirty dollars (\$130.00). The fee shall be paid to the Division  
46 prior to the issuance to such person of a new drivers license or the restoration of the drivers  
47 license. The restoration fee shall be paid to the Division in addition to any and all fees which may  
48 be provided by law. This restoration fee shall not be required from any licensee whose license  
49 was revoked or voluntarily surrendered for medical or health reasons whether or not a medical  
50 evaluation was conducted pursuant to this Chapter. The sixty five dollar (\$65.00) fee, and the  
51 first one hundred five dollars (\$105.00) of the one hundred thirty dollar (\$130.00) fee, shall be

1 deposited in the Highway Fund. Twenty five dollars (\$25.00) of the one hundred thirty dollar  
2 (\$130.00) fee shall be used to fund a statewide chemical alcohol testing program administered  
3 by the Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section of the  
4 Department of Health and Human Services. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
5 restoration fee assessed pursuant to this subsection may be waived by the Division when (i) the  
6 restoration fee remains unpaid for more than 10 years from the date of assessment and (ii) the  
7 person responsible for payment of the restoration fee has been issued a drivers license by the  
8 Division after the effective date of the revocation for which the restoration fee is owed. The  
9 Division may also waive restoration fees and other service fees upon a finding by the  
10 Commissioner that the license holder has shown good cause for not being able to pay the fine.  
11 The Office of State Budget and Management shall annually report to the General Assembly the  
12 amount of fees deposited in the General Fund and transferred to the Forensic Tests for Alcohol  
13 Branch of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section of the Department of Health and Human  
14 Services under this subsection."

15 **SECTION 1.(c)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to  
16 revocations and suspensions before, on, or after that date.  
17

## 18 **REVISE REVOCATION FOR MOVING OFFENSE COMMITTED WHILE LICENSE** 19 **SUSPENDED OR REVOKED**

20 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 20-28.1 reads as rewritten:

21 "**§ 20-28.1. Conviction of moving offense committed while driving during period of**  
22 **suspension or revocation of license.**

23 (a) Upon receipt of notice of conviction of any person of a motor vehicle moving offense,  
24 such offense having been committed while such person's driving privilege was in a state of  
25 suspension or revocation, the Division shall revoke such person's driving privilege for an  
26 additional period of time as set forth in ~~subsection (b) hereof.~~ subsection (b) of this section. For  
27 purposes of this section a violation of G.S. 20-7(a), 20-24.1, or 20-28(a) or (a2) shall not be  
28 considered a "motor vehicle moving offense" unless the offense occurred in a commercial motor  
29 vehicle or the person held a commercial drivers license at the time of the offense. A violation of  
30 G.S. 20-313 is considered a "motor vehicle moving offense" for the purposes of this section.

31 (b) When a driving privilege is subject to revocation under this section, the additional  
32 period of revocation shall be as follows:

- 33 (1) ~~A first such revocation shall be for one year;~~ For a first offense under this  
34 section, there is no additional period of revocation.
- 35 (2) ~~A second such revocation shall be for two years; and~~ For a second offense  
36 under this section, the additional period of revocation is one year.
- 37 (3) ~~A third or subsequent such revocation shall be permanent.~~ For a third and  
38 subsequent offense under this section, the additional period of revocation is  
39 two years, except that if the person committed the offense while the person's  
40 driving privilege was revoked or suspended for impaired driving, the  
41 revocation is permanent.

42 (c) A person whose license has been revoked under this section for one year may apply  
43 for a license after 90 days. A person whose license has been revoked under this section for two  
44 years may apply for a license after 12 months. A person whose license has been revoked under  
45 this section permanently may apply for a license after three years. Upon the filing of an  
46 application, the Division may, with or without a hearing, issue a new license upon satisfactory  
47 proof that the former licensee has not been convicted of a moving violation under this Chapter  
48 or the laws of another state, or a violation of any provision of the alcoholic beverage laws of this  
49 State or another state, or a violation of any provision of the drug laws of this State or another  
50 state when any of these violations occurred during the revocation period. The Division may  
51 impose any restrictions or conditions on the new license that the Division considers appropriate

1 for the balance of the revocation period. When the revocation period is permanent, the restrictions  
2 and conditions imposed by the Division may not exceed three years. A person that applies for a  
3 license under this subsection must furnish proof to the satisfaction of the Division that the person  
4 is maintaining financial responsibility as required by G.S. 20-279.21. Any person whose drivers  
5 license was issued pursuant to this subsection who drives any motor vehicle on the highways of  
6 the State without maintaining financial responsibility in violation of G.S. 20-313 is guilty of  
7 failure to maintain financial responsibility pursuant to G.S. 20-313 and driving while license  
8 revoked pursuant to G.S. 20-28(a4).

9 ...."

10 **SECTION 2.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to  
11 convictions entered before, on, or after that date.

12 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 20-28 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 20-28. Unlawful to drive while license revoked, after notification, or while disqualified.**

14 (a) Driving While License Revoked. – Except as provided in subsections (a1) or (a2) of  
15 this section, any person whose drivers license has been revoked who drives any motor vehicle  
16 upon the highways of the State while the license is revoked is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

17 (a1) Driving While License Revoked for Impaired Driving. – Any person whose drivers  
18 license has been revoked for an impaired driving revocation as defined in G.S. 20-28.2(a) and  
19 who drives any motor vehicle upon the highways of the State is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.  
20 Upon conviction, the person's license shall be revoked for an additional period of one year for  
21 the first offense, two years for the second offense, and permanently for a third or subsequent  
22 offense.

23 If the person's license was originally revoked for an impaired driving revocation, the court  
24 may order as a condition of probation that the offender abstain from alcohol consumption and  
25 verify compliance by use of a continuous alcohol monitoring system, of a type approved by the  
26 Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, for a  
27 minimum period of 90 days.

28 The restoree of a revoked drivers license who operates a motor vehicle upon the highways of  
29 the State without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law shall be punished as for  
30 driving without a license.

31 (a2) Driving Without Reclaiming License. – A person convicted under subsection (a) or  
32 (a1) of this section shall be punished as if the person had been convicted of driving without a  
33 license under G.S. 20-35 if the person demonstrates to the court that either of the following is  
34 true:

35 (1) At the time of the offense, the person's license was revoked solely under  
36 G.S. 20-16.5 and one of the following applies:

- 37 a. The offense occurred more than 45 days after the effective date of a  
38 revocation order issued under G.S. 20-16.5(f) and the period of  
39 revocation was 45 days as provided under subdivision (3) of that  
40 subsection; or  
41 b. The offense occurred more than 30 days after the effective date of the  
42 revocation order issued under any other provision of G.S. 20-16.5.

43 (2) At the time of the offense the person had met the requirements of  
44 G.S. 50-13.12, or G.S. 110-142.2 and was eligible for reinstatement of the  
45 person's drivers license privilege as provided therein.

46 In addition, a person punished under this subsection shall be treated for drivers license and  
47 insurance rating purposes as if the person had been convicted of driving without a license under  
48 G.S. 20-35, and the conviction report sent to the Division must indicate that the person is to be  
49 so treated.

50 (a3) Driving After Notification or Failure to Appear. – A person shall be guilty of a Class  
51 1 misdemeanor if:

- 1 (1) The person operates a motor vehicle upon a highway while that person's  
2 license is revoked for an impaired drivers license revocation after the Division  
3 has sent notification in accordance with G.S. 20-48; or  
4 (2) The person fails to appear for two years from the date of the charge after being  
5 charged with an implied-consent offense.

6 Upon conviction, the person's drivers license shall be revoked for an additional period of one  
7 year for the first offense, two years for the second offense, and permanently for a third or  
8 subsequent offense. The restoree of a revoked drivers license who operates a motor vehicle upon  
9 the highways of the State without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law shall  
10 be punished as for driving without a license.

11 (a4) Driving After Restoration Without Insurance. – In addition to the penalty for violating  
12 G.S. 20-313, a person shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if the person operates a motor  
13 vehicle upon a highway without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law after the  
14 Division has restored the license pursuant to G.S. 20-24.1(h).

15 ...."

16 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Division of Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules to implement this  
17 section and provide a designation for the new offense of Driving After Restoration Without  
18 Insurance in the digital platform used by law enforcement.

19 **SECTION 3.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective December 1, 2021,  
20 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective  
21 when this act becomes law.

22 **SECTION 4.(a)** Section 7 of S.L. 2015-186, as amended by Section 86 of S.L.  
23 2015-264, reads as rewritten:

24 "**SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to offenses  
25 committed ~~on on, before, or after that date. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the~~  
26 ~~effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act, date,~~ and the statutes that would  
27 be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions."

28 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

29  
30 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

31 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
32 law.