

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 475

Short Title: State ID Cards for High School Students. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pickett, Budd, and Biggs (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, State and Local Government, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 24, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ALLOW NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT LEAST SIXTEEN
YEARS OF AGE TO OBTAIN A NORTH CAROLINA SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION
CARD FOR A FEE AND TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO ISSUE SPECIAL
IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN
MECKLENBURG, RANDOLPH, UNION, AND WATAUGA COUNTIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-37.7(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Expiration and Fee. – A special identification card issued to a person for the first time under this section expires when a drivers license issued on the same day to that person would expire. A special identification card renewed under this section expires when a drivers license renewed by the card holder on the same day would expire. The Division shall offer renewal of a special identification card in person and online on the Division's Web site.

The fee for a special identification card is the same as the fee set in G.S. 20-14 for a duplicate license. The fee does not apply to a special identification card issued to a resident of this State as follows:

...

(2) The applicant is at least ~~17~~16 years old.

...."

SECTION 2.(a) Establishment of Pilot Program. – By no later than December 31, 2025, the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation (DMV), in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the governing bodies of public school units with high schools located in Mecklenburg, Randolph, Union, and Watauga Counties, shall establish and implement a pilot program to issue a North Carolina special identification card as provided under G.S. 20-37.7 to eligible students in public high schools.

SECTION 2.(b) Pilot Program Requirements. – The pilot program established pursuant to this act shall, at minimum, meet all of the following requirements:

(1) Students that are (i) at least 16 years old and (ii) enrolled in a public high school located within Mecklenburg, Randolph, Union, or Watauga County shall be eligible to receive a special identification card.

(2) DMV, DPI, and the governing bodies of public high schools located in Mecklenburg, Randolph, Union, and Watauga Counties shall provide



information to students and parents regarding the issuance of special identification cards.

(3) DMV, DPI, and the governing bodies of public high schools located in Mecklenburg, Randolph, Union, and Watauga Counties shall coordinate scheduled time to give students the opportunity to obtain special identification cards. Time to obtain a special identification card shall be scheduled on one instructional day prior to December 31 of that school year and one instructional day after December 31 of that school year. If students travel to a DMV location to obtain the special identification card, the DMV shall have a dedicated terminal for students during that time. A DMV mobile office may also be used to satisfy this requirement.

(4) Upon the request of a student, the student's high school shall provide the DMV with the information required to complete a special identification card application. This information shall be provided in a manner prescribed by the DMV.

(5) Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-93 or any other law to the contrary, the State Registrar is authorized to issue a certified copy of a student's birth certificate to the governing body of a public high school or the Division upon a student's request in connection with a special identification card application. The certified copy of the student's birth certificate is not a public record.

SECTION 2.(c) Expiration of the Pilot Program. – The pilot program required by this act expires December 31, 2027.

SECTION 3. Applicability. – Section 2 of this act applies to public high schools located in Mecklenburg, Randolph, Union, and Watauga Counties only.

SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.