

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

**H**

**D**

**HOUSE DRH70679-RWz-19A\* (04/25)**

Short Title: Vehicle Registration/Inspection Changes.-AB

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representative Cole.

---

Referred to:

---

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE LAWS GOVERNING VEHICLE  
REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT  
LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-66 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 20-66. Renewal of vehicle registration.**

(a) Annual Renewal. – The registration of a vehicle must be renewed annually. To renew the registration of a vehicle, the owner of the vehicle must file an application with the Division and pay the required registration fee. The Division may receive and grant an application for renewal of registration at any time before the registration expires.

(b) Method of Renewal. – When the Division renews the registration of a vehicle, it must issue a new registration card for the vehicle and either a new registration plate or a registration renewal sticker. The Division may renew a registration plate for any type of vehicle by means of a renewal sticker.

(b1) Repealed by Session Laws 1993, c. 467, s. 2.

(c) Renewal Stickers. – A registration renewal sticker issued by the Division must be displayed on the registration plate that it renews in the place prescribed by the Commissioner and must indicate the period for which it and the registration plate on which it is displayed are valid. Except where physical differences between a registration renewal sticker and a registration plate render a provision of this Chapter inapplicable, the provisions of this Chapter relating to registration plates apply to registration renewal stickers.

(d) (e) Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 761, § 5.

(f) Repealed by Session Laws 1993, c. 467, s. 2.

1 (g) When Renewal Sticker Expires. – The registration of a vehicle that is  
2 renewed by means of a registration renewal sticker expires at midnight on the last day  
3 of the month designated on the sticker. It is lawful, however, to operate the vehicle on a  
4 highway until midnight on the fifteenth day of the month following the month in which  
5 the sticker expired.

6 The Division may vary the expiration dates of registration renewal stickers  
7 issued for a type of vehicle so that an approximately equal number expires at the end of  
8 each month, quarter, or other period consisting of one or more months. When the  
9 Division implements registration renewal for a type of vehicle by means of a renewal  
10 sticker, it may issue a registration renewal sticker that expires at the end of any monthly  
11 interval.

12 (h) Repealed by Session Laws 2004-167, s. 3, as amended by Session Laws  
13 2004-199, s. 59, effective January 1, 2006.

14 (i) Property Tax Consolidation. – When the Division receives an application  
15 under subsection (a) for the renewal of registration before the current registration  
16 expires, the Division shall grant the application if it is made for the purpose of  
17 consolidating the property taxes payable by the applicant on classified motor vehicles,  
18 as defined in G.S. 105-330. The registration fee for a motor vehicle whose registration  
19 cycle is changed under this subsection shall be reduced by a prorated amount. The  
20 prorated amount is one-twelfth of the registration fee in effect when the motor vehicle's  
21 registration was last renewed multiplied by the number of full months remaining in the  
22 motor vehicle's current registration cycle, rounded to the nearest multiple of twenty-five  
23 cents (25¢).

24 (j) **(Effective October 1, 2008)** Inspection Prior to Renewal of Registration. –  
25 The Division shall not renew the registration of a vehicle unless it has a current safety or  
26 emissions inspection.

27 ~~(k) **(Effective October 1, 2008)** Return of Registration Plates Upon Expiration. –~~  
28 ~~Registration plates that are not renewed shall be surrendered to the Division within 120~~  
29 ~~days of expiration."~~

30 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-183.4 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 20-183.4. License required to perform safety inspection; qualifications for**  
32 **license.**

33 (a) License Required. – A safety inspection must be performed by one of the  
34 following methods:

- 35 (1) At a station that has a safety inspection station license issued by the  
36 Division and by a mechanic who is employed by the station and has a  
37 safety inspection mechanic license issued by the Division.
- 38 (2) At a place of business of a person who has a safety self-inspector  
39 license issued by the Division and by an individual who has a safety  
40 inspection mechanic license issued by the Division.

41 (b) Station Qualifications. – An applicant for a license as a safety inspection  
42 station must meet all of the following requirements:

- 43 (1) Have a place of business that has adequate facilities, space, and  
44 equipment to conduct a safety inspection. A place of business

1 designated in a station license that has been suspended or revoked  
2 cannot be the designated place for any other license applicant during  
3 the period of the suspension or revocation, unless the Division finds  
4 that operation of the place of business as an inspection station during  
5 this period by the license applicant would not defeat the purpose of the  
6 suspension or revocation because the license applicant has no  
7 connection with the person whose license was suspended or revoked or  
8 because of another reason. A finding made by the Division under this  
9 subdivision must be set out in a written statement that includes the  
10 finding and the reason for the finding.

11 (2) Regularly employ at least one mechanic who has a safety inspection  
12 mechanic license.

13 (3) Designate the individual who will be responsible for the day-to-day  
14 operation of the station. The individual designated must be of good  
15 character and have a reputation for honesty.

16 (4) **(Effective October 1, 2008)** Have equipment and software approved  
17 by the Division to transfer information on safety inspections to the  
18 Division by electronic means. During the initial implementation of the  
19 electronic inspection process, the vendor selected by the Division shall  
20 provide the equipment and software at no cost to a station that holds a  
21 license on October 1, 2008.

22 (c) Mechanic Qualifications. – An applicant for a license as a safety inspection  
23 mechanic must meet all of the following requirements:

24 (1) **(Effective until October 1, 2008)** Have successfully completed an  
25 eight-hour course approved by the Division that teaches students about  
26 the safety equipment a motor vehicle is required to have to pass a  
27 safety inspection and how to conduct a safety inspection.

28 (1) **(Effective October 1, 2008)** Have successfully completed an  
29 eight-hour course approved by the Division that teaches students about  
30 the safety equipment a motor vehicle is required to have to pass a  
31 safety inspection and how to conduct a safety inspection using  
32 equipment to electronically transmit the vehicle information and  
33 inspection results.

34 (2) Have a drivers license.

35 (3) Be of good character and have a reputation for honesty.

36 (d) Self-Inspector Qualifications. – An applicant for a license as a safety  
37 self-inspector must meet all of the following requirements:

38 (1) Operate a fleet of at least 10 vehicles that are subject to a safety  
39 inspection.

40 (2) Regularly employ or contract with an individual who has a safety  
41 inspection mechanic license and who will perform a safety inspection  
42 on the vehicles that are part of the self-inspector's fleet."

43 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-183.4C reads as rewritten:

44 **"§ 20-183.4C. When a vehicle must be inspected; one-way trip permit.**

1 (a) Inspection. – A vehicle that is subject to a safety inspection, an emissions  
2 inspection, or both must be inspected as follows:

3 (1) A new vehicle must be inspected before it is sold at retail in this State.  
4 Upon purchase, a receipt approved by the Division must be provided  
5 to the new owner certifying compliance.

6 (1a) A new motor vehicle dealer who is also licensed pursuant to this  
7 Article may, notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this section, examine  
8 the safety and emissions control devices on a new motor vehicle and  
9 perform such services necessary to ensure the motor vehicle conforms  
10 to the required specifications established by the manufacturer and  
11 contained in its predelivery check list. The completion of the  
12 predelivery inspection procedure required or recommended by the  
13 manufacturer on a new motor vehicle shall constitute the inspection  
14 required by subdivision (1) of this section. For the purposes of this  
15 subdivision, the date of inspection shall be deemed to be the date of  
16 the sale of the motor vehicle to a purchaser.

17 (2) A used vehicle must be inspected before it is offered for sale at retail  
18 in this State by a dealer. Upon purchase, a receipt approved by the  
19 Division must be provided to the new owner certifying compliance.

20 (3) Repealed by Session Law 2007-503, s. 5, effective October 1, 2008.

21 (4) A new or used vehicle acquired by a resident of this State from outside  
22 the State must be inspected ~~within 10 days after~~ before the vehicle is  
23 registered with the Division.

24 (5) A vehicle owned by a new resident of this State who transfers the  
25 registration of the vehicle from the resident's former home state to this  
26 State must be inspected ~~within 10 days after~~ before the vehicle is  
27 registered with the Division.

28 (5a) Repealed by Session Law 2007-503, s. 5, effective October 1, 2008.

29 (6) A vehicle that has been inspected in accordance with this Part must be  
30 inspected by the last day of the month in which the registration on the  
31 vehicle expires.

32 (7) A vehicle that is required to be inspected in accordance with this Part  
33 may be inspected 90 days prior to midnight of the last day of the  
34 month as designated by the vehicle registration sticker.

35 (8) A new or used vehicle acquired from a retailer in this State and  
36 registered with the Division with a new registration or a transferred  
37 registration must be inspected in accordance with this Part when the  
38 current registration expires.

39 (9) A used vehicle acquired from a private sale in this State must be  
40 inspected in accordance with this Part ~~within 30 days after~~ before  
41 the vehicle is registered with the Division ~~or when the current registration~~  
42 ~~expires if it has not received~~ unless it has received a passing inspection  
43 within the previous 12 months.

1           (10) An unregistered vehicle must be inspected ~~within 30 days after~~ before  
2           the vehicle is registered with the Division or ~~not later than 30 days~~  
3           ~~after~~ before a transferred registration expires.

4           (11) A person who owns a vehicle located outside of this State when its  
5           emissions inspection becomes due may obtain an emissions inspection  
6           in the jurisdiction where the vehicle is located, in lieu of a North  
7           Carolina emissions inspection, as long as the inspection meets the  
8           requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 51.

9           (b) Permit. – The Division may issue a one-way trip permit to a person that  
10          authorizes the person to drive to an inspection station a vehicle whose inspection sticker  
11          has expired. The permit must describe the vehicle whose inspection sticker has expired.  
12          The permit authorizes the person to drive the described vehicle only from the place the  
13          vehicle is parked to an inspection station.

14                 The Division may issue a 10-day temporary permit to a person that authorizes  
15          the person to drive a vehicle that failed to pass either the safety inspection or emissions  
16          inspection. The permit must describe the vehicle that failed to pass inspection and the  
17          date that it failed to pass inspection."

18                 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2008.