

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 552**

Short Title: Optional Two-Year License Plates.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Allred; Allen, Bowie, Buchanan, Cox, Gulley, Haire, Justus, McComas, Nye, Owens, Rayfield, Sherrill, Smith, Warner, and Warwick.

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Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, Finance.

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March 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR OPTIONAL TWO-YEAR LICENSE PLATES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"(a) Annual or Biennial Renewal. – The registration of a vehicle ~~must~~ shall be renewed ~~annually.~~ either annually or biennially. To renew the registration of a vehicle, the owner of the vehicle ~~must~~ shall 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."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-66(h) reads as rewritten:

"(h) When Calendar-Year Plate Expires. – The registration of a vehicle that is not renewed by means of a registration renewal sticker expires at midnight on December 31 of ~~each year.~~ the year indicated on the sticker. It is lawful, however, to operate the vehicle on a highway until midnight on the following February 15."

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-66(i) reads as rewritten:

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

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-63(h) reads as rewritten:

1       "(h) Commission Contracts for Issuance of Plates and Certificates. – All  
2 registration plates, registration certificates and certificates of title issued by the  
3 Division, outside of those issued from the Raleigh offices of the said Division and those  
4 issued and handled through the United States mail, shall be issued insofar as practicable  
5 and possible through commission contracts entered into by the Division for the issuance  
6 of such plates and certificates in localities throughout North Carolina with persons,  
7 firms, corporations or governmental subdivisions of the State of North Carolina and the  
8 Division shall make a reasonable effort in every locality, except as hereinbefore noted,  
9 to enter into a commission contract for the issuance of such plates and certificates and a  
10 record of these efforts shall be maintained in the Division. In the event the Division is  
11 unsuccessful in making commission contracts as hereinbefore set out it shall then issue  
12 said plates and certificates through the regular employees of the Division. Whenever  
13 registration plates, registration certificates and certificates of title are issued by the  
14 Division through commission contract arrangements, the Division shall provide proper  
15 supervision of such distribution. Commission contracts entered under this subsection  
16 shall provide for the payment of compensation for all transactions as set forth below.  
17 Nothing contained in this subsection will allow or permit the operation of fewer outlets  
18 in any county in this State than are now being operated.

19       A transaction is any of the following activities:

- 20           (1) Issuance of a registration plate, a registration card, a registration  
21           renewal sticker, or a certificate of title.
- 22           (2) Issuance of a handicapped placard or handicapped identification card.
- 23           (3) Acceptance of an application for a personalized registration plate.
- 24           (4) Acceptance of a surrendered registration plate, registration card, or  
25           registration renewal sticker, or acceptance of an affidavit stating why a  
26           person cannot surrender a registration plate, registration card, or  
27           registration renewal sticker.
- 28           (5) Cancellation of a title because the vehicle has been junked.
- 29           (6) Acceptance of an application for, or issuance of, a refund for a fee or a  
30           tax, other than the highway use tax.
- 31           (7) Receipt of the civil penalty imposed by G.S. 20-309 for a lapse in  
32           financial responsibility or receipt of the restoration fee imposed by that  
33           statute.
- 34           (8) Acceptance of a notice of failure to maintain financial responsibility  
35           for a motor vehicle.
- 36           (8a) Collection of civil penalties imposed for violations of G.S. 20-183.8A.
- 37           (8b) Sale of one or more inspection stickers in a single transaction to a  
38           licensed inspection station.
- 39           (9) Collection of the highway use tax.

40       Performance at the same time of any combination of the items that are listed within  
41 each subdivision or are listed within subdivisions (1) through (8b) of this section is a  
42 single transaction for which a one dollar and thirty-five cent (\$1.35) compensation shall  
43 be paid. Performance of the item listed in subdivision (9) of this subsection in

1 combination with any other items listed in this subsection is a separate transaction for  
2 which a one dollar and twenty cent (\$1.20) compensation shall be paid.

3 Issuance of a two-year registration plate or sticker is a transaction for which a two  
4 dollar and seventy cent (\$2.70) compensation shall be paid."

5 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2002.