



New Bill Extends Deadlines for Motor Vehicle Credentials and Taxes

May 4, 2020

The N.C. General Assembly has approved and Governor Cooper has signed into law a bill that addresses concerns regarding motor vehicle credentials and taxes. For this bill, motor vehicle credentials refers to, among other things, driver's licenses, learner's permits, limited provisional licenses, commercial driver's licenses and permits, state-issued IDs, and vehicle registration.¹ The bill contains a full list with any other credentials not mentioned here.

The bill applies to vehicle credentials that expire on or after March 1, 2020 and before August 1, 2020.² For credentials within this time frame, the bill states the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) **shall** extend the expiration date by five months.³ The DMV shall waive any fines, fees, or penalties associated with failing to renew a credential during the five-month period of time for which it has been extended.⁴

Motor vehicle taxes that are tied to vehicle registration shall be extended to correspond to the new extended expiration dates. These dates are effective retroactively,⁵ so if a credential expired or a vehicle tax linked to registration was due at any time on or after March 1, it will receive the five-month extension so long as the expiration occurs before August 1.

If a person is stopped by law enforcement for having an expired credential during the five-month extension time period, they may not be convicted or found responsible for any offense resulting from failure to renew a credential if, when tried for the offense, the person shows that it occurred during the five-month extension period.⁶

The DMV is required to notify individuals impacted by the extension period and to provide information on new expirations dates and how they impact subsequent renewal and expirations dates.⁷ This notice will likely be sent by mail to the address on file with the DMV. If someone has questions about whether they will be impacted, they should contact the DMV at (919) 715-7000.

For other questions about the bill and it's impacts on driving credentials, contact Emma Ferriola-Bruckenstein at the Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department at (919)-245-2313, or eferriola-bruckenstein@orangecountync.gov.

The full bill may be found [here](#). The information about the DMV is found in Part IV, Sections 4.7(a) through 4.7(h), on pages 36 and 37 of the document.

¹ COVID-19 Recovery Act, S.B. 704, N.C. Gen. Assemb., Sess. 2019, Part IV, § 4.7(a) (N.C. 2020).

² *Id.* at § 4.7(b)

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* at § 4.7(d).

⁵ *Id.* at § 4.7(h).

⁶ *Id.* at § 4.7 (f).

⁷ *Id.* at § 4.7(b).