

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 31

Short Title: Bioptic Lenses/Drivers License Tests. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Snow, Clary; Goss, and Hoyle.

Referred to: Commerce.

February 4, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF BIOPTIC LENSES WHEN TESTING FOR A DRIVERS LICENSE AND THE ISSUANCE OF A RESTRICTED LICENSE TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PASSES CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AFTER PASSING THE DRIVERS LICENSE EYE TEST.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-7 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(t) Use of Bioptic Telescopic Lenses. – An applicant using bioptic telescopic lenses shall be eligible for a regular drivers license under this section if the applicant meets all of the following:

- (1) Demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/200 in one or both eyes and a field of 70 degrees horizontal vision with or without corrective carrier lenses, or if the person has vision in one eye only, the person demonstrates a field of at least 40 degrees temporal and 30 degrees nasal horizontal vision.
- (2) Demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/70 in one or both eyes with the bioptic telescopic lenses and without the use of field expanders.
- (3) Provides a report of examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist on a form prescribed by the Division for the Division to determine if all field of vision requirements are met or additional testing is needed.
- (4) Meets all other criteria for licensure.

Applicants using bioptic telescopic lenses shall be eligible for a limited learner's permit or provisional drivers license issued pursuant to G.S. 20-11, provided the requirements of this subsection are met and any other required testing or documentation is completed and submitted with the application.

Applicants issued a regular drivers license, limited learner's permit, or provisional drivers license, after using bioptic telescopic lenses for the eye test, shall be subject to the following restrictions on the license issued:

- (1) The license or permit holder shall not be eligible for any endorsements.
- (2) The license or permit shall permit the operation of motor vehicles only during the period beginning one-half hour after sunrise and ending one-half hour before sunset.

Applicants issued a regular drivers license, after using bioptic telescopic lenses for the eye test, may drive motor vehicles between the period beginning one-half hour before sunset and ending one-half hour after sunrise if the applicant:

- (1) Demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/40 in one or both eyes with the bioptic telescopic lenses and without the use of field expanders;
- (2) Has been licensed under this section for at least one year; and



1 (3) Passes a skills test taken at night.
2 Nothing in this subsection shall require the Division to issue licenses or permits applied for,
3 pursuant to the requirements of this section, at any location other than the Division's
4 Headquarters office in Raleigh. The Division may select additional offices throughout the State
5 as sites for testing allowed pursuant to this subsection."

6 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.