



CHAPTER 20

ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-73.

New owner must get new certificate of title.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2018-145, s. 4 — fourteenth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:30 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 4fb8cc3f41a452d50e837e9f - 64d4dba8d8f126f3c9012910 - 99fac5a6a83b0d5d
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§ 20-73(a)

Time Limit. - A person to whom a vehicle is transferred, whether by purchase or otherwise, must apply to the Division for a new certificate of title. An application for a certificate of title must be submitted within 28 days after the vehicle is transferred. A person who must follow the procedure in G.S. 20-76 to get a certificate of title and who applies for a title within the required 20-day time limit or who transfers title to a vehicle pursuant to a sworn certificate pursuant to G.S. 20-52.1(d) is considered to have complied with this section even when the Division issues a certificate of title to the person after the time limit has elapsed.

A person may apply directly for a certificate of title or may allow another person, such as the person from whom the vehicle is transferred or a person who has a lien on the vehicle, to apply for a certificate of title on that person's behalf. A person to whom a vehicle is transferred is responsible for getting a certificate of title within the time limit regardless of whether the person allowed another to apply for a certificate of title on the person's behalf.

§ 20-73(b)

Exceptions. - This section does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A dealer or an insurance company to whom a vehicle is transferred when the transfer meets the requirements of G.S. 20-75.
- (2) A State agency that assists the United States Department of Defense with purchasing, transferring, or titling a vehicle to another State agency, a unit of local government, a volunteer fire department, or a volunteer rescue squad.

§ 20-73(c)

Penalties. - A person to whom a vehicle is transferred who fails to apply for a certificate of title within the required time is subject to a civil penalty of twenty dollars (\$20.00) and is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. A person who undertakes to apply for a certificate of title on behalf of another person and who fails to apply for a title within the required time is subject to a civil penalty of twenty dollars (\$20.00). When a person to whom a vehicle is transferred fails to obtain a title within the required time because a person who undertook to apply for the certificate of title did not do so within the required time, the Division may impose a civil penalty only on the person who undertook to apply for the title. Civil penalties collected under this subsection shall be credited to the Highway Fund.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I

14 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1937	c. 407, s. 37	ENACTED
02	1939	c. 275	AMENDED
03	1947	c. 219, s. 6	AMENDED
04	1961	c. 360, s. 9	AMENDED
05	1975	c. 716, s. 5	AMENDED
06	1991	c. 689, s. 332	AMENDED
07	1993	c. 539, s. 339	AMENDED
08	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED
09	2005	S.L. 2005-276, s. 44.1(j)	AMENDED
10	2009	S.L. 2009-81, s. 1	AMENDED
11	2009	S.L. 2009-550, s. 2(b)	AMENDED
12	2015	S.L. 2015-241, s. 29.30(i)	AMENDED
13	2018	S.L. 2018-42, s. 2(g)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
3 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 20-76	(a)	"who must follow the procedure in"
G.S. 20-52.1(d)	(a)	"to a sworn certificate pursuant to"
G.S. 20-75	(b)(1)	"the transfer meets the requirements of"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-73 (2018).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-73(a) (2018).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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The text of the section is unaltered. Subsection designators have been moved from the run of text into the margin. The amendment history and the table of authorities are derived from the section by mechanical extraction — they add no characterization of the law.

This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1937, c. 407, s. 37; 1939, c. 275; 1947, c. 219, s. 6; 1961, c. 360, s. 9; 1975, c. 716, s. 5; 1991, c. 689, s. 332; 1993, c. 539, s. 339; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2005-276, s. 44.1(j); 2009-81, s. 1; 2009-550, s. 2(b); 2015-241, s. 29.30(i); 2018-42, s. 2(g); 2018-145, s. 4.)

