



CHAPTER 20
ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-88.03.

Late fee; motor vehicle registration.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:39 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 3a33fac8b5efd689ae38cf9b - 642e5ad2952a89e75ce6b606 - a935b6b7c26966f8
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§ 20-88.03(a) Late Fee. - In addition to the applicable fees required under this Article for the registration of a motor vehicle and any interest assessed under G.S. 105-330.4, the Division shall charge a late fee according to the following schedule to a person who pays the applicable registration fee required under this Article after the registration expires:

- (1) If the registration has been expired for less than one month, a late fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
- (2) If the registration has been expired for one month or greater, but less than two months, a late fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00).
- (3) If the registration has been expired for two months or greater, a late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

§ 20-88.03(a1) Waiver. - The Division shall waive the late fee assessed under subsection (a) of this section against a person who establishes the following:

- (1) The person was deployed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States when the registration expired.
- (2) The person obtained a renewed registration within 30 days after the deployment ended.

§ 20-88.03(b) Proceeds. - The clear proceeds of any late fee charged under this section shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2. The clear proceeds of the late fee charged under this section shall be used to provide

a dedicated source of revenue for the drivers education program administered by the Department of Public Instruction in accordance with G.S. 115C-215.

§ 20-88.03(c) Construction. - For purposes of this section, payment by mail of a registration fee required under this Article is considered to be made on the date shown on the postmark stamped by the United States Postal Service. If payment by mail is not postmarked or does not show the date of mailing, the payment is considered to be made on the date the Division receives the payment.

§ 20-88.03(d) Grace Period Inapplicable. - The 15-day grace period provided in G.S. 20-66(g) shall not apply to any late fee assessed under this section.

§ 20-88.03(e) Surrender of Registration Plate. - Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the Division to assess a late fee under this section if, on or prior to the date the registration expires, the owner surrenders to the Division the registration plate issued for the vehicle. (2015-241, s. 29.30(m); 2015-268, s. 8.2(a); 2016-94, s. 35.13; 2017-57, s. 5.4(d); 2021-89, s. 3.)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
4 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. 105-330.4	(a)	<i>"vehicle and any interest assessed under"</i>
G.S. 115C-457.2	(b)	<i>"and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with"</i>
G.S. 115C-215	(b)	<i>"of Public Instruction in accordance with"</i>
G.S. 20-66(g)	(d)	<i>"The 15-day grace period provided in"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-88.03 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-88.03(a) (2026).

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

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