

# 2025 Driver Education Board Update-DRAFT

## February 13, 2025

The NC Legislature did not close their 2023-2024 Session until December 13, 2024. They waited to leave until they had passed all the legislation they needed to pass since the House lost their Supermajority, though that was not a problem in 2023 when Charlotte legislator Rep Tricia Cotham switched parties from Democrat to Republican. The Senate maintained their Supermajority.

Governor Josh Stein a Democrat was elected and sworn in in early January. Attorney General Jeff Jackson a Democrat and Mo Green for State Superintendent.

The NC House and NC Senate members were sworn in the first week of January and the 2025-2026 Session began on January 29. There is a new Speaker of the House, Speaker Destin Hall (former House Rules Chair-Caldwell, Watauga) as former Speaker Moore is now in Congress. Rep Bell remains as majority leader and in the Senate Rep Berger is President Protem and Senator Hise Deputy President Protem, but there are many Committee Changes in the House and Senate.

House Senior Appropriations -Rep. Lambeth, Rep. Arp, Rep Hall and Rep Strickland.  
House Education Chairs: Rep Cotham, Rep Biggs, and Rep Willis  
Senate Appropriations Chairs-Senator Hise, Senator Lee, and Senator Jackson  
Senate Education Chairs- Senator Corbin, Senator Overcash, and Senator Lee

Several initial meetings were held with friends in the House. Rep Elmore is now the House Budget Manager for the Speaker. These meetings were an effort to deal with the House Budget legislation in 2023 that moved parts of DE to DMV. Also, made visits to the new House Education Chairs office and most of the Senate as well as a few Appropriations Chairs. Scheduling future meetings to seek increased funding and legislation to allow public schools to give the DMV permit test (NCDTSEA Board 2024 vote) and relieve DMV offices of more work to cut down on their backlog and lines.

Introduction of bills have begun: House- 106-2.11     Senate-84-2.11

Several DMV bills introduced was in the Senate (DE not included) one bill seeks to set a DMV Authority Board and study taking over responsibility from Secretary of DOT and Commissioner and giving to the Board Authority. Another bill of note reduces early voting to 6 days, though a majority of NC early voted in 2024

**Update on Driver Education 2025 Issue:** On January 23, a call came in from Mickey Tripp. He notified me he was running low on 611 and 611a Completion Certificate (CC) forms from DMV and that DMV stopped printing them and when he spoke to DPI he was told several things among which, was DPI had not taken action on the forms. In September 2023, OAH changed a code/law and ended DMV's oversight of Commercial school's operations for students under the age of 18, while DMV still provides various duties for commercial schools, they no longer provide Completion Certificates (611) and curriculum oversight. On January 24, I contacted the State Superintendent and DPI Government Relations person and get their assistance. On January 27, DPI Government Relations contacted me and said he hoped to have a new CC Form for All public Schools and Commercial Schools. There have been lots of phone calls, many more emails, and lots of questions about the New Form over the past several weeks. Every day, I tried to resolve the problems with this issue and at this time, things seem much better and at least there is a Uniform CC Form for commercial schools and public schools. The commercial schools form and separate public schools form will be phased out and all students taking Driver Education will have the one CC Form to take to Driver's License Offices. The old CC Forms will still be accepted for the foreseeable future. FAQ was released on the new CC Form last week from DPI.