

SUBCHAPTER X. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC SAFETY.

Article 36.

Offenses Against the Public Safety.

§ 14-278. Willful injury to property of railroads.

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully, with intent to cause injury to any person passing over the railroad or damage to the equipment traveling on such road, put or place any matter or thing upon, over or near any railroad track, or destroy, injure, tamper with, or remove the roadbed, or any part thereof, or any rail, sill or other part of the fixtures appurtenant to or constituting or supporting any portion of the track of such railroad, and the person so offending shall be punished as a Class I felon. (1838, c. 38; R.C., c. 34, ss. 99, 100; 1879, c. 255, s. 2; Code, s. 1098; Rev., s. 3754; 1911, c. 200; C.S., s. 4417; 1967, c. 1082, s. 1; 1979, c. 760, s. 5; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1316, s. 47; 1981, c. 63, s. 1, c. 179, s. 14; 1985, c. 577, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 1221; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-279. Unlawful injury to property of railroads.

Any person who, without intent to cause injury to any person or damage to equipment, commits any of the acts referred to in G.S. 14-278 shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (R.C., c. 34, s. 101; Code, s. 1099; Rev., s. 3755; C.S., s. 4418; 1967, c. 1082, s. 2; 1985, c. 577, s. 2; 1993, c. 539, s. 175; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-279.1. Unlawful impairment of operation of railroads.

Any person who, without authorization of the affected railroad company, shall willfully do or cause to be done any act to railroad engines, equipment, or rolling stock so as to impede or prevent movement of railroad trains or so as to impair the operation of railroad equipment shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1979, c. 387, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 176; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-280. Shooting or throwing at trains or passengers.

If any person shall willfully cast, throw or shoot any stone, rock, bullet, shot, pellet or other missile at, against, or into any railroad car, locomotive or train, or any person thereon, while such car or locomotive shall be in progress from one station to another, or while such car, locomotive or train shall be stopped for any purpose, the person so offending shall be guilty of a Class I felony. (1876-7, c. 4; Code, s. 1100; 1887, c. 19; Rev., s. 3763; 1911, c. 179; C.S., s. 4419; 1985, c. 577, s. 3; 1993, c. 539, s. 1222; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-280.1. Trespassing on railroad right-of-way.

(a) **Offense.** – A person commits the offense of trespassing on railroad right-of-way if the person enters and remains on the railroad right-of-way without the consent of the railroad company or the person operating the railroad or without authority granted pursuant to State or federal law.

(b) **Crossings.** – Nothing in this section shall apply to a person crossing the railroad right-of-way at a public or private crossing.

(c) Legally Abandoned Rights-of-Way. – This section shall not apply to any right-of-way that has been legally abandoned pursuant to an order of a federal or State agency having jurisdiction over the right-of-way and is not being used for railroad services.

(d) Classification. – Trespassing on railroad right-of-way is a Class 3 misdemeanor. (2000-146, s. 10.)

§ 14-280.2. Use of a laser device towards an aircraft.

(a) Any person who, willfully points a laser device at an aircraft, while the device is emitting a laser beam, and while the aircraft is taking off, landing, in flight, or otherwise in motion, is guilty of a Class H felony.

(b) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) "Aircraft" is as defined in G.S. 63-1.

(2) "Laser" is as defined in G.S. 14-34.8.

(c) This section shall not apply where the laser use had been approved by a State or federal agency. (2005-329, s. 1.)

§ 14-280.3. Interference with manned aircraft by unmanned aircraft systems.

(a) Any person who willfully damages, disrupts the operation of, or otherwise interferes with a manned aircraft through use of an unmanned aircraft system, while the manned aircraft is taking off, landing, in flight, or otherwise in motion, is guilty of a Class H felony.

(b) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) Manned aircraft. – As defined in G.S. 15A-300.1.

(2) Unmanned aircraft system. – As defined in G.S. 15A-300.1. (2014-100, s. 34.30(c).)

§ 14-281. Operating trains and streetcars while intoxicated.

Any train dispatcher, telegraph operator, engineer, fireman, flagman, brakeman, switchman, conductor, motorman, or other employee of any steam, street, suburban or interurban railway company, who shall be intoxicated while engaged in running or operating, or assisting in running or operating, any railway train, shifting-engine, or street or other electric car, shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1871-2, c. 138, s. 38; Code, s. 1972; 1891, c. 114; Rev., s. 3758; 1907, c. 330; C.S., s. 4420; 1969, c. 1224, s. 3; 1993, c. 539, s. 177; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-281.1. Throwing, dropping, etc., objects at sporting events.

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drop, pour, release, discharge, expose or place in an area where an athletic contest or sporting event is taking place any substance or object that shall be likely to cause injury to persons participating in or attending such contests or events or to cause damage to animals, vehicles, equipment, devices, or other things used in connection with such contests or events. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. (1977, c. 772, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 178; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-282. Displaying false lights on seashore.

If any person shall make or display, or cause to be made or displayed, any false light or beacon on or near the seacoast, for the purpose of deceiving and misleading masters of vessels, and thereby putting them in danger of shipwreck, he shall be guilty of a Class I felony. (1831, c. 42; R.C., c. 34, s. 58; Code, s. 1024; Rev., s. 3430; C.S., s. 4421; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1316, s. 16; 1981, c. 63, s. 1, c. 179, s. 14; 1993, c. 539, s. 1223; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-283. Exploding dynamite cartridges and bombs.

If any person shall fire off or explode, or cause to be fired off or exploded, except for mechanical purposes in a legitimate business, any dynamite cartridge, bomb or other explosive of a like nature, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (1887, c. 364, s. 53; Rev., s. 3794; C.S., s. 4423; 1993, c. 539, s. 179; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-284. Keeping for sale or selling explosives without a license.

If any dealer or other person shall sell or keep for sale any dynamite cartridges, bombs or other combustibles of a like kind, without first having obtained from the board of commissioners of the county where such person or dealer resides a license for that purpose, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (1887, c. 364, ss. 1, 4; Rev., s. 3817; C.S., s. 4425; 1993, c. 539, s. 180; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-284.1. Regulation of sale of explosives; reports; storage.

(a) No person shall sell or deliver any dynamite or other powerful explosives as hereinafter defined without being satisfied as to the identity of the purchaser or the one to receive such explosives and then only upon the written application signed by the person or agent of the person purchasing or receiving such explosive, which application must contain a statement of the purpose for which such explosive is to be used.

(b) All persons delivering or selling such explosives shall keep a complete record of all sales or deliveries made, including the amounts sold and delivered, the names of the purchasers or the one to whom the deliveries were made, the dates of all such sales or such deliveries and the use to be made of such explosive, and shall preserve such record and make the same available to any law-enforcement officer during business hours for a period of 12 months thereafter.

(c) All persons having dynamite or other powerful explosives in their possession or under their control shall at all times keep such explosives in a safe and secure manner, and when such explosives are not in the course of being used they shall be stored and protected against theft or other unauthorized possession.

(d) As used in this section, the term "powerful explosives" includes, but shall not be limited to, nitroglycerin, trinitrotoluene, and blasting caps, detonators and fuses for the explosion thereof.

(e) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

(f) The provisions of this section are intended to apply only to sales to those who purchase for use. Nothing herein contained is intended to apply to a sale made by a manufacturer, jobber, or wholesaler to a retail merchant for resale by said merchant.

(g) Nothing herein contained shall be construed as repealing any law now prohibiting the sale of firecrackers or other explosives; nor shall this section be construed as authorizing the sale of explosives now prohibited by law. (1953, c. 877; 1969, c. 1224, s. 6; 1993, c. 539, s. 181; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-284.2. Dumping of toxic substances.

(a) It shall be unlawful to deposit, place, dump, discharge, spill, release, burn, incinerate, or otherwise dispose of any toxic substances as defined in this section or radioactive material as defined in G.S. 104E-5 into the atmosphere, in the waters, or on land, except where such disposal is conducted pursuant to federal or State law, regulation, or permit. Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class F felony. The fine authorized by G.S. 14-1.1(a)(8) for a conviction under this section may include a fine of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per day of violation.

(b) Within the meaning of this section, toxic substances are defined as the following heavy metals and halogenated hydrocarbons:

- (1) Heavy metals: mercury, plutonium, selenium, thallium and uranium;
- (2) Halogenated hydrocarbons: polychlorinated biphenyls, kepone.

(c) Within the meaning of this section, the phrase "law, regulation or permit" includes controls over equipment or machinery that emits substances into the atmosphere, in waters, or on land (such as federal or State controls over motor vehicle emissions) and controls over sources of substances that are publicly consumed (such as drinking water standards), as well as controls over substances directly released into the atmosphere, in waters, or on land (such as pesticide controls and water pollution controls).

(d) Within the meaning of this section the term "person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, limited partnership, corporation or association. (1979, c. 981, s. 2; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1316, s. 17; 1981, c. 63, s. 1, c. 179, s. 14; 1993, c. 539, s. 1224; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-285: Repealed by Session Laws 1994, Extra Session, c. 14, s. 72.

§ 14-286. Giving false fire alarms; molesting fire-alarm, fire-detection or fire-extinguishing system.

(a) **Offense.** – It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to wantonly and willfully give or cause to be given, or to advise, counsel, or aid and abet anyone in giving, a false alarm of fire, or to break the glass key protector, or to pull the slide, arm, or lever of any station or signal box of any fire-alarm system, except in case of fire, or willfully misuse or damage a portable fire extinguisher, or in any way to willfully interfere with, damage, deface, molest, or injure any part or portion of any fire-alarm, fire-detection, smoke-detection or fire-extinguishing system.

(b) **Penalty.** – Any person who willfully interferes with, damages, defaces, molests, or injures any part or portion of a fire-alarm, fire-detection, smoke-detection, or fire-extinguishing system in a prison or local confinement facility is guilty of a Class H felony. Any person who commits any other violation of this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. For purposes of this subsection, the term "local confinement facility" means a county or city jail, a local lockup, or a detention facility for adults operated by a local government. (1921, c. 46; C.S., s. 4426(a); 1961, c. 594; 1969, c. 1224, s. 5; 1975, c. 346; 1993, c. 539, s. 182; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2019-134, s. 1.)

§ 14-286.1. Making false ambulance request.

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully summon an ambulance or willfully report that an ambulance is needed when such person does not have good cause to believe that the services of an ambulance are needed. Every person convicted of willfully violating this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. (1967, c. 343, s. 6; 1993, c. 539, s. 183; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-286.2. Interfering with emergency communication.

(a) Offense. – A person who intentionally interferes with an emergency communication, knowing that the communication is an emergency communication, and who is not making an emergency communication himself, is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor. In addition, a person who interferes with a communications instrument or other emergency equipment with the intent to prevent an emergency communication is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor.

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 2001-148, s. 1.

(b1) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Emergency communication. – The term includes communications to law enforcement agencies or other emergency personnel, or other individuals, relating or intending to relate that an individual is or is reasonably believed to be, or reasonably believes himself or another person to be, in imminent danger of bodily injury, or that an individual reasonably believes that his property or the property of another is in imminent danger of substantial damage, injury, or theft.

(2) Intentional interference. – The term includes forcefully removing a communications instrument or other emergency equipment from the possession of another, hiding a communications instrument or other emergency equipment from another, or otherwise making a communications instrument or other emergency equipment unavailable to another, disconnecting a communications instrument or other emergency equipment, removing a communications instrument from its connection to communications lines or wavelengths, damaging or otherwise interfering with communications equipment or connections between a communications instrument and communications lines or wavelengths, disabling a theft-prevention alarm system, providing false information to cancel an earlier call or otherwise falsely indicating that emergency assistance is no longer needed when it is, and any other type of interference that makes it difficult or impossible to make an emergency communication or that conveys a false impression that emergency assistance is unnecessary when it is needed. (1987, c. 690, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 184; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2001-148, s. 1.)

§ 14-287. Leaving unused well open and exposed.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, after discontinuing the use of any well, to leave said well open and exposed; said well, after the use of same has been discontinued, shall be carefully and securely filled: Provided, that this shall not apply to wells on farms that are protected by curbing or board walls. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1923, c. 125; C.S., s. 4426(c); 1969, c. 1224, s. 5; 1993, c. 539, s. 185; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 14-288. Unlawful to pollute any bottles used for beverages.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation having custody for the purpose of sale, distribution or manufacture of any beverage bottle, to place, cause or permit to be placed therein turpentine, varnish, wood alcohol, bleaching water, bluing, kerosene, oils, or any unclean or foul substance, or other offensive material, or to send, ship, return and deliver or cause or permit to be sent, shipped, returned or delivered to any producer of beverages, any bottle used as a container for beverages, and containing any turpentine, varnish, wood alcohol, bleaching water, bluing, kerosene, oils, or any unclean or foul substance, or other offensive material. Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined on the first offense, one dollar (\$1.00) for each bottle so defiled, and for any subsequent offense not more than ten dollars (\$10.00) for each bottle so defiled. (1929, c. 324, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 186; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)