



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 22 - DAMAGES AND OTHER OFFENSES TO LAND AND FIXTURES

N.C.G.S. § 14-159.1.

Contaminating or injuring a public water system; injuring a wastewater treatment facility.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2024-45, s. 9(a) — sixth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 04:12 UTC	ff514d6e55aa754b96c9e8ba - edbae7807229dad767a763ef - 147583b423da50cf

- § 14-159.1(a)

Contaminating a Public Water System. - It is unlawful to knowingly and willfully contaminate, adulterate, or otherwise impurify, or attempt to contaminate, adulterate or otherwise impurify, the water in a public water system, as defined in G.S. 130A-313(10), including the water source, with any toxic chemical, biological agent or radiological substance that is harmful to human health, except those added in approved concentrations for water treatment operations.
- § 14-159.1(b)

Injuring a Public Water System. - It is unlawful to knowingly and willfully stop, obstruct, impair, weaken, destroy, injure, or otherwise damage, or attempt to stop, obstruct, impair, weaken, destroy, injure, or otherwise damage, the property or equipment of a public water system, as defined in G.S. 130A-313(10), with the intent to impair the services of the public water system.
- § 14-159.1(c)

Injuring a Wastewater Treatment System. - It is unlawful to knowingly and willfully stop, obstruct, impair, weaken, destroy, injure, or otherwise damage, or attempt to stop, obstruct, impair, weaken, destroy, injure, or otherwise damage, the property or equipment of a wastewater treatment system that is owned or operated by a (i) public utility, as that term is defined under G.S. 62-3, or (ii) local government unit, as defined in G.S. 159G-20(13). For purposes of this section, the term "wastewater treatment facility" means the various facilities and devices used in the treatment of sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes of a liquid nature, including the necessary interceptor

sewers, outfall sewers, nutrient removal equipment, pumping equipment, power and other equipment, and their appurtenances.

§ 14-159.1(d)**CLASS C FELONY**

Punishment. - A person who violates subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section is guilty of a Class C felony. Additionally, a person who violates subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section shall be ordered to pay a fine of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

§ 14-159.1(e)

Merger. - Each violation of this section constitutes a separate offense and shall not merge with any other offense.

§ 14-159.1(f)

Civil Remedies. - Any person whose property or person is injured by reason of a violation of subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section shall have a right of action on account of such injury done against the person who committed the violation and any person who acts as an accessory before or after the fact, aids or abets, solicits, conspires, or lends material support to the violation of this section. If damages are assessed in such case, the plaintiff shall be entitled to recover treble the amount of damages fixed by the verdict or punitive damages pursuant to Chapter 1D of the General Statutes, together with costs, including attorneys' fees. A violation of subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section shall constitute willful or wanton conduct within the meaning of G.S. 1D-5(7) in any civil action filed as a result of the violation. The rights and remedies provided by this subsection are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law. For purposes of this subsection, the term "damages" includes actual and consequential damages.

§ 14-159.1(g)

[Prohibition Regarding Treble Damages. -] The provisions of subsection (f) of this section relating to treble damages shall not be made known to the trier of fact through any means, including voir dire, the introduction into evidence, argument, or instructions to the jury.

§ 14-159.1(h)

[Exclusions. -] Nothing in this section shall apply to work or activity that is performed at or on a public water system or wastewater treatment facility by the owner or operator of the facility, or an agent of the owner or operator authorized to perform such work or activity by the owner or operator.

§ 14-159.1(i)

["Property or Equipment" Defined. -] For purposes of this section, the term "property or equipment" shall include hardware, software, or other digital infrastructure necessary for the operations of a public water system or wastewater treatment system.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
6 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.

1983	2004		2024
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT			
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1983	c. 507, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1985	c. 509, s. 4	AMENDED
03	1985	c. 689, s. 5	AMENDED
04	1993	c. 539, s. 1189	AMENDED
05	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED
06	2024	S.L. 2024-45, s. 9(a)	AMENDED

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. 130A-313(10)	(a)	"public water system, as defined in"
G.S. 62-3, or (ii)	(c)	"as that term is defined under"
G.S. 159G-20(13)	(c)	"local government unit, as defined in"
G.S. 1D-5(7)	(f)	"wanton conduct within the meaning of"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-159.1 (2024).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-159.1(a) (2024).

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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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1983, c. 507, s. 1; 1985, c. 509, s. 4; c. 689, s. 5; 1993, c. 539, s. 1189; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2024-45, s. 9(a).)

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