



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 22C - CAVE PROTECTION ACT

N.C.G.S. § 14-159.20.

Definitions.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT c. 449 — first act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 05:12 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT b9132a74f8ee0cf7538f6dc9 - b5e53e2159703a9901f5ab8b - 11ce941d11cbb36e
--	--	---	--

The terms listed below have the following definitions as used in this Article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

"Cave" means any naturally occurring subterranean cavity. The word "cave" includes or is synonymous with cavern, pit, well, sinkhole, and grotto;

"Commercial cave" means any cave with improved trails and lighting utilized by the owner for the purpose of exhibition to the general public as a profit or nonprofit enterprise, wherein a fee is collected for entry;

"Gate" means any structure or device located to limit or prohibit access or entry to any cave;

"Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, trust or corporation;

"Speleothem" means a natural mineral formation or deposit occurring in a cave. This includes or is synonymous with stalagmites, stalactites, helectites, anthodites, gypsum flowers, needles, angel's hair, soda straws, draperies, bacon, cave pearls, popcorn (coral), rimstone dams, columns, palettes, and flowstone. Speleothems are commonly composed of calcite, epsomite, gypsum, aragonite, celestite and other similar minerals; and

"Owner" means a person who has title to land where a cave is located, including a person who owns title to a leasehold estate in such land.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
1 ACT

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.

1987				1988
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT				
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER	
01	1987	c. 449	ENACTED	

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-159.20 (1987).

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

This document reproduces the text of one section of the General Statutes of North Carolina from a source file whose SHA-256 digest is printed on every page. The digest fixes the bytes this export was made from; if the State's file changes, the digest will not match.

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
(1987, c. 449.)

SET IN SPECTRAL AND ARCHIVO
NORTH CAROLINA LAW — STATUTE EXPORT, FORMAT V1

