



CHAPTER 14

ARTICLE 23 - TRESPASSES TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

N.C.G.S. § 14-163.1.

Assaulting a law enforcement agency animal, an assistance animal, or a search and rescue animal.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2009-460, s. 1 — eighth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 02:29 UTC	3d8d521379a074d8d08dbe5f - 73a03a52052b07c82ff60a01 - 498a4d6c434311c6

§ 14-163.1(a)

The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Assistance animal. - An animal that is trained and may be used to assist a "person with a disability" as defined in G.S. 168A-3. The term "assistance animal" is not limited to a dog and includes any animal trained to assist a person with a disability as provided in Article 1 of Chapter 168 of the General Statutes.
- (2) Law enforcement agency animal. - An animal that is trained and may be used to assist a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's official duties.
- (3) Harm. - Any injury, illness, or other physiological impairment; or any behavioral impairment that impedes or interferes with duties performed by a law enforcement agency animal or an assistance animal.
- (3a) Search and rescue animal. - An animal that is trained and may be used to assist in a search and rescue operation.
- (4) Serious harm. - Harm that does any of the following:
 - a. Creates a substantial risk of death.
 - b. Causes maiming or causes substantial loss or impairment of bodily function.
 - c. Causes acute pain of a duration that results in substantial suffering.

d.Requires retraining of the law enforcement agency animal or assistance animal.

e.Requires retirement of the law enforcement agency animal or assistance animal from performing duties.

§ 14-163.1(a1)

CLASS H FELONY

Any person who knows or has reason to know that an animal is a law enforcement agency animal, an assistance animal, or a search and rescue animal and who willfully kills the animal is guilty of a Class H felony.

§ 14-163.1(b)

CLASS I FELONY

Any person who knows or has reason to know that an animal is a law enforcement agency animal, an assistance animal, or a search and rescue animal and who willfully causes or attempts to cause serious harm to the animal is guilty of a Class I felony.

§ 14-163.1(c)

Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who knows or has reason to know that an animal is a law enforcement agency animal, an assistance animal, or a search and rescue animal and who willfully causes or attempts to cause harm to the animal is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

§ 14-163.1(d)

Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who knows or has reason to know that an animal is a law enforcement agency animal, an assistance animal, or a search and rescue animal and who willfully taunts, teases, harasses, delays, obstructs, or attempts to delay or obstruct the animal in the performance of its duty as a law enforcement agency animal, an assistance animal, or a search and rescue animal is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

§ 14-163.1(d1)

A defendant convicted of a violation of this section shall be ordered to make restitution to the person with a disability, or to a person, group, or law enforcement agency who owns or is responsible for the care of the law enforcement agency animal or search and rescue animal for any of the following as appropriate:

- (1) Veterinary, medical care, and boarding expenses for the law enforcement agency animal, the assistance animal, or the search and rescue animal.
- (2) Medical expenses for the person with the disability relating to the harm inflicted upon the assistance animal.
- (3) Replacement and training or retraining expenses for the law enforcement agency animal, the assistance animal, or the search and rescue animal.

- (4) Expenses incurred to provide temporary mobility services to the person with a disability.
- (5) Wages or income lost while the person with a disability is with the assistance animal receiving training or retraining.
- (6) The salary of the law enforcement agency animal handler as a result of the lost services to the agency during the time the handler is with the law enforcement agency animal receiving training or retraining.
- (6a) The salary of the search and rescue animal handler as a result of the search and rescue services lost during the time the handler is with the search and rescue animal receiving training or retraining.
- (7) Any other expense reasonably incurred as a result of the offense.

§ 14-163.1(e) This section shall not apply to a licensed veterinarian whose conduct is in accordance with Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.

§ 14-163.1(f) Self-defense is an affirmative defense to a violation of this section.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

§ 14-163.1(g) Nothing in this section shall affect any civil remedies available for violation of this section.

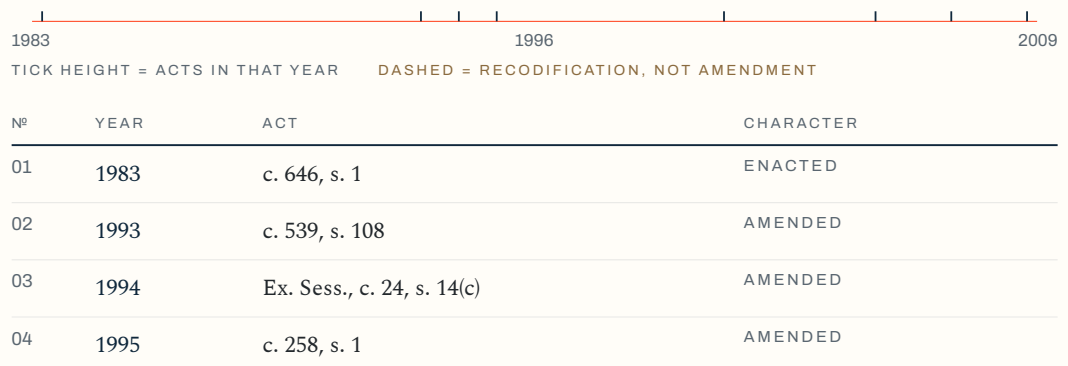
END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
8 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.



05	2001	S.L. 2001-411, s. 1	AMENDED
06	2005	S.L. 2005-184, s. 1	AMENDED
07	2007	S.L. 2007-80, s. 1	AMENDED
08	2009	S.L. 2009-460, s. 1	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
1 AUTHORITY

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. 168A-3	(a)(1)	"with a disability" as defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-163.1 (2009).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-163.1(a) (2009).

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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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

(1983, c. 646, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 108; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1995, c. 258, s. 1; 2001-411, s. 1; 2005-184, s. 1; 2007-80, s. 1; 2009-460, s. 1.)

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