



CHAPTER 14  
ARTICLE 52 - MISCELLANEOUS POLICE REGULATIONS

N.C.G.S. § 14-401.24.

Unlawful possession and use of unmanned aircraft systems.

|                                                                                    |                                                               |                                           |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SOURCE<br>General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly | LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT<br>No amendment history on record | RETRIEVED<br>21 September 2026, 02:53 UTC | SOURCE FINGERPRINT<br>d14d9c14f3371542933b61a2 - b6f7034b1411e5fb289c111e - d018f78ad5acda37 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

§ 14-401.24(a)  
CLASS E FELONY

It shall be a Class E felony for any person to possess or use an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system that has a weapon attached.

§ 14-401.24(b)

It shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to fish or to hunt using an unmanned aircraft system.

§ 14-401.24(c)

The following definitions apply to this section:

(1)

To fish. - As defined in G.S. 113-130, except when an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system is used during, immediately preparatory to, or immediately subsequent to the taking of fish for (i) spotting; locating; recording, broadcasting, or streaming video of fish; or (ii) deploying bait.

(2)

To hunt. - As defined in G.S. 113-130.

(3)

Unmanned aircraft. - As defined in G.S. 15A-300.1.

(4)

Unmanned aircraft system. - As defined in G.S. 15A-300.1.

(5)

Weapon. - Those weapons specified in G.S. 14-269, 14-269.2, 14-284.1, or 14-288.8 and any other object capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death when used as a weapon.

§ 14-401.24(d)

This section shall not prohibit possession or usage of an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system that is authorized by federal law or regulation. (2014-100, s. 34.30(d); 2023-69, s. 2.6(a).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II  
3 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. 113-130   | (c)(1)     | "To fish. - As defined in"             |
| G.S. 15A-300.1 | (c)(3)     | "Unmanned aircraft. - As defined in"   |
| G.S. 14-269    | (c)(5)     | "Weapon. - Those weapons specified in" |

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-401.24 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-401.24(a) (2026).

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

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