



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 16 - LARCENY

N.C.G.S. § 14-72.

Larceny of property; receiving stolen goods
or possessing stolen goods.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-71, s. 9(a) — twenty-sixth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 03:31 UTC	f57e5db975a1b8873ec3a177 - 0c224b19d3db904a03e9d04c - 5f855ba25a194e28

§ 14-72(a)

CLASS H FELONY

Larceny of goods of the value of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) is a Class H felony. The receiving or possessing of stolen goods of the value of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) while knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the goods are stolen is a Class H felony. Larceny as provided in subsection (b) of this section is a Class H felony. Receiving or possession of stolen goods as provided in subsection (c) of this section is a Class H felony. Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, larceny of property, or the receiving or possession of stolen goods knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe them to be stolen, where the value of the property or goods is not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), is a Class 1 misdemeanor. In all cases of doubt, the jury shall, in the verdict, fix the value of the property stolen.

§ 14-72(b)

The crime of larceny is a felony, without regard to the value of the property in question, if the larceny is any of the following:

- (1) From the person.
- (2) Committed pursuant to a violation of G.S. 14-51, 14-53, 14-54, 14-54.1, or 14-57.

- (3) Of any explosive or incendiary device or substance. As used in this section, the phrase "explosive or incendiary device or substance" shall include any explosive or incendiary grenade or bomb; any dynamite, blasting powder, nitroglycerin, TNT, or other high explosive; or any device, ingredient for such device, or type or quantity of substance primarily useful for large-scale destruction of property by explosive or incendiary action or lethal injury to persons by explosive or incendiary action. This definition shall not include fireworks; or any form, type, or quantity of gasoline, butane gas, natural gas, or any other substance having explosive or incendiary properties but serving a legitimate nondestructive or nonlethal use in the form, type, or quantity stolen.
- (4) Of any firearm. As used in this section, the term "firearm" shall include any instrument used in the propulsion of a shot, shell or bullet by the action of gunpowder or any other explosive substance within it. A "firearm," which at the time of theft is not capable of being fired, shall be included within this definition if it can be made to work. This definition shall not include air rifles or air pistols.
- (5) Of any record or paper in the custody of the North Carolina State Archives as defined by G.S. 121-2(7) and G.S. 121-2(8).
- (6) Committed after the defendant has been convicted in this State or in another jurisdiction for any offense of larceny under this section, or any offense deemed or punishable as larceny under this section, or of any substantially similar offense in any other jurisdiction, regardless of whether the prior convictions were misdemeanors, felonies, or a combination thereof, at least four times. A conviction shall not be included in the four prior convictions required under this subdivision unless the defendant was represented by counsel or waived counsel at first appearance or otherwise prior to trial or plea. If a person is convicted of more than one offense of misdemeanor larceny in a single session of district court, or in a single week of superior court or of a court in another jurisdiction, only one of the convictions may be used as a prior conviction under this subdivision; except that convictions based upon offenses which occurred in separate counties shall each count as a separate prior conviction under this subdivision.

§ 14-72(c)

The crime of possessing stolen goods knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe them to be stolen in the circumstances described in subsection (b) is a felony or the crime of receiving stolen goods knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe them

to be stolen in the circumstances described in subsection (b) is a felony, without regard to the value of the property in question.

§ 14-72(c1)

Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (a) of this section, where the larceny or receiving or possession of stolen goods is of mail, the person shall be sentenced at one class level higher than the principal offense for which the person was convicted. For the purposes of this section, the term "mail" means a letter, package, bag, or other item of value sent or delivered to another by any method of delivery, including through a common carrier, commercial delivery service, or private delivery.

§ 14-72(d)

Where the larceny or receiving or possession of stolen goods as described in subsection (a) of this section involves the merchandise of any store, a merchant, a merchant's agent, a merchant's employee, or a peace officer who detains or causes the arrest of any person shall not be held civilly liable for detention, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, or false arrest of the person detained or arrested, when such detention is upon the premises of the store or in a reasonable proximity thereto, is in a reasonable manner for a reasonable length of time, and, if in detaining or in causing the arrest of such person, the merchant, the merchant's agent, the merchant's employee, or the peace officer had, at the time of the detention or arrest, probable cause to believe that the person committed an offense under subsection (a) of this section. If the person being detained by the merchant, the merchant's agent, or the merchant's employee, is a minor under the age of 18 years, the merchant, the merchant's agent, or the merchant's employee, shall call or notify, or make a reasonable effort to call or notify the parent or guardian of the minor, during the period of detention. A merchant, a merchant's agent, or a merchant's employee, who makes a reasonable effort to call or notify the parent or guardian of the minor shall not be held civilly liable for failing to notify the parent or guardian of the minor.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
26 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.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
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01	1895	c. 285	ENACTED
02	Rev.	s. 3506	RECODIFIED
03	1913	c. 118, s. 1	AMENDED
04	C.S.	s. 4251	RECODIFIED
05	1941	c. 178, s. 1	AMENDED
06	1949	c. 145, s. 2	AMENDED
07	1959	c. 1285	AMENDED
08	1961	c. 39, s. 1	AMENDED
09	1965	c. 621, s. 5	AMENDED
10	1969	c. 522, s. 2	AMENDED
11	1973	c. 238, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
12	1975	c. 163, s. 2	AMENDED
13	1975	c. 696, s. 4	AMENDED
14	1977	c. 978, ss. 2, 3	AMENDED
15	1979	c. 408, s. 1	AMENDED
16	1979	c. 760, s. 5	AMENDED
17	1979	2nd Sess., c. 1316, ss. 11, 47	AMENDED
18	1981	c. 63, s. 1	AMENDED
19	1981	c. 179, s. 14	AMENDED
20	1991	c. 523, s. 2	AMENDED
21	1993	c. 539, s. 34	AMENDED
22	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED
23	1995	c. 185, s. 2	AMENDED
24	2006	S.L. 2006-259, s. 4(a)	AMENDED
25	2012	S.L. 2012-154, s. 1	AMENDED
26	2025	S.L. 2025-71, s. 9(a)	AMENDED

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. 14-51	(b)(2)	"Committed pursuant to a violation of"
G.S. 121-2(7)	(b)(5)	"Carolina State Archives as defined by"
G.S. 121-2(8)	(b)(5)	"as defined by G.S. 121-2(7) and"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-72 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-72(a) (2025).

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

(1895, c. 285; Rev., s. 3506; 1913, c. 118, s. 1; C.S., s. 4251; 1941, c. 178, s. 1; 1949, c. 145, s. 2; 1959, c. 1285; 1961, c. 39, s. 1; 1965, c. 621, s. 5; 1969, c. 522, s. 2; 1973, c. 238, ss. 1, 2; 1975, c. 163, s. 2; c. 696, s. 4; 1977, c. 978, ss. 2, 3; 1979, c. 408, s. 1; c. 760, s. 5; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1316, ss. 11, 47; 1981, c. 63, s. 1; c. 179, s. 14; 1991, c. 523, s. 2; 1993, c. 539, s. 34; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1995, c. 185, s. 2; 2006-259, s. 4(a); 2012-154, s. 1; 2025-71, s. 9(a).)

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