



## CHAPTER 15

## ARTICLE 19 - EXECUTION

## N.C.G.S. § 15-188.

# Manner and place of execution.

| SOURCE                                                                   | LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT                        | RETRIEVED                    | SOURCE FINGERPRINT                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly | S.L. 2025-93, s. 6.5(b) — ninth act in the lineage | 21 September 2026, 04:21 UTC | 6af457164512482ab7f15416 - e30515ac1867243d1896c811 - 6159149a07733c71 |

**§ 15-188(a)**

Unless subsection (b) of this section applies, the mode of executing a death sentence must in every case be by administering to the convict or felon an intravenous injection of a substance or substances in a lethal quantity sufficient to cause death and until the person is dead, and that procedure shall be determined by the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction, who shall ensure compliance with the federal and State constitutions; and when any person, convict or felon shall be sentenced by any court of the State having competent jurisdiction to be so executed, the punishment shall only be inflicted within a permanent death chamber which the superintendent of the State penitentiary is hereby authorized and directed to provide within the walls of the North Carolina penitentiary at Raleigh, North Carolina. The superintendent of the State penitentiary shall also cause to be provided, in conformity with this Article, the necessary appliances for the infliction of the punishment of death and qualified personnel to set up and prepare the injection, administer the preinjections, insert the IV catheter, and to perform other tasks required for this procedure in accordance with the requirements of this Article.

**§ 15-188(b)**

The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction, within 120 days of notice of a judgment being entered that the method in subsection (a) of this section has been declared unconstitutional by a North Carolina court of competent jurisdiction or notice that the method of execution provided for in subsection (a) of this section is not available, must select another method of executing a death sentence that has been adopted by another state unless such method has been declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. If the method of execution selected under this subsection is then declared unconstitutional by a North Carolina court of competent

jurisdiction, then the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall select another method within 120 days of notice of such a judgment being entered.

**§ 15-188(c)**

The Department of Adult Correction shall establish protocols and procedures within 120 days once the Department of Adult Correction establishes a method of execution pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall immediately schedule a date for the execution of the original death sentence not more than 60 days from upon the establishment of the protocols and procedures in this subsection, or within the timeframe specified in G.S. 15-194, if applicable.

**§ 15-188(d)**

The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall report within 14 days the alternative method of execution chosen pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

**§ 15-188(e)**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations in every case in which a mode of execution under this section is challenged by a defendant, deemed unconstitutional by a North Carolina court of competent jurisdiction or is not an available mode for some other reason within 7 days of such event.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I  
9 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  |
|----|------|----------------------------|------------|
| 01 | 1909 | c. 443, s. 2               | ENACTED    |
| 02 | C.S. | s. 4658                    | RECODIFIED |
| 03 | 1935 | c. 294, s. 2               | AMENDED    |
| 04 | 1983 | c. 678, s. 2               | AMENDED    |
| 05 | 1998 | S.L. 1998-212, s. 17.22(b) | AMENDED    |

|    |      |                            |         |
|----|------|----------------------------|---------|
| 06 | 2012 | S.L. 2012-136, s. 1        | AMENDED |
| 07 | 2013 | S.L. 2013-154, s. 3(a)     | AMENDED |
| 08 | 2021 | S.L. 2021-180, s. 19C.9(n) | AMENDED |
| 09 | 2025 | S.L. 2025-93, s. 6.5(b)    | 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. 15-194 | (c)        | <i>"or within the timeframe specified in"</i> |

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION  
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15-188 (2025).

PINPOINT  
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15-188(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

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.

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### HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1909, c. 443, s. 2; C.S., s. 4658; 1935, c. 294, s. 2; 1983, c. 678, s. 2; 1998-212, s. 17.22(b); 2012-136, s. 1; 2013-154, s. 3(a); 2021-180, s. 19C.9(n); 2025-93, s. 6.5(b).)

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