



CHAPTER 160A
ARTICLE 8 - DELEGATION AND EXERCISE OF THE GENERAL POLICE POWER

N.C.G.S. § 160A-175.

Enforcement of ordinances.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2024-49, s. 5.2(n) — sixth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:44 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 2f066808ee50c10429512971 - 30dd708ac6ed8b0a573c0239 - 58ff7705fe8b90cd
--	---	---	--

§ 160A-175(a) A city shall have power to impose fines and penalties for violation of its ordinances, and may secure injunctions and abatement orders to further insure compliance with its ordinances as provided by this section.

§ 160A-175(b)
INFRACTION Except for the types of ordinances listed in subsection (b1) of this section, violation of a city ordinance may be a misdemeanor or infraction as provided by G.S. 14-4 only if the city specifies such in the ordinance. An ordinance may provide by express statement that the maximum fine, term of imprisonment, or infraction penalty to be imposed for a violation is some amount of money or number of days less than the maximum imposed by G.S. 14-4. Notwithstanding G.S. 160A-75, no ordinance specifying a criminal penalty may be enacted at the meeting in which it is first introduced.

§ 160A-175(b1) No ordinance of the following types may impose a criminal penalty:

- (1) Any ordinance adopted under Article 19 of this Chapter, Planning and Regulation of Development, or its successor, Chapter 160D of the General Statutes, except for those ordinances related to unsafe buildings.
- (2) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-193.1, Stream-clearing programs.
- (3) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-194, Regulating and licensing businesses, trades, etc.
- (4) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-199, Regulation of outdoor advertising or, its successor, G.S. 160D-912, Outdoor advertising.

- (5) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-201, Limitations on regulating solar collectors or, its successor, G.S. 160D-914, Solar collectors.
- (6) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-202, Limitations on regulating cisterns and rain barrels.
- (7) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-304, Regulation of taxis.
- (8) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-306, Building setback lines.
- (9) Any ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160A-307, Curb cut regulations.
- (10) Any ordinance regulating trees.

§ 160A-175(c) An ordinance may provide that violation shall subject the offender to a civil penalty to be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within a prescribed period of time after he has been cited for violation of the ordinance.

§ 160A-175(c1) An ordinance may provide for the recovery of a civil penalty by the city for violation of the North Carolina Fire Code of the North Carolina State Building Code as authorized under G.S. 143-139.

§ 160A-175(d) An ordinance may provide that it may be enforced by an appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction. In such case, the General Court of Justice shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders as may be appropriate, and it shall not be a defense to the application of the city for equitable relief that there is an adequate remedy at law.

§ 160A-175(e) An ordinance that makes unlawful a condition existing upon or use made of real property may be enforced by injunction and order of abatement, and the General Court of Justice shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders. When a violation of such an ordinance occurs the city may apply to the appropriate division of the General Court of Justice for a mandatory or prohibitory injunction and order of abatement commanding the defendant to correct the unlawful condition upon or cease the unlawful use of the property. The action shall be governed in all respects by the laws and rules governing civil proceedings, including the Rules of Civil Procedure in general and Rule 65 in particular.

In addition to an injunction, the court may enter an order of abatement as a part of the judgment in the cause. An order of abatement may direct that buildings or other

structures on the property be closed, demolished, or removed; that fixtures, furniture, or other movable property be removed from buildings on the property; that grass and weeds be cut; that improvements or repairs be made; or that any other action be taken that is necessary to bring the property into compliance with the ordinance. If the defendant fails or refuses to comply with an injunction or with an order of abatement within the time allowed by the court, he may be cited for contempt, and the city may execute the order of abatement. The city shall have a lien on the property for the cost of executing an order of abatement in the nature of a mechanic's and materialman's lien. The defendant may secure cancellation of an order of abatement by paying all costs of the proceedings and posting a bond for compliance with the order. The bond shall be given with sureties approved by the clerk of superior court in an amount approved by the judge before whom the matter is heard and shall be conditioned on the defendant's full compliance with the terms of the order of abatement within a time fixed by the judge. Cancellation of an order of abatement shall not suspend or cancel an injunction issued in conjunction therewith.

§ 160A-175(f) Subject to the express terms of the ordinance, a city ordinance may be enforced by any one, all, or a combination of the remedies authorized and prescribed by this section.

§ 160A-175(g) A city ordinance may provide, when appropriate, that each day's continuing violation shall be a separate and distinct offense.

§ 160A-175(h) Notwithstanding any authority under this Article or any local act of the General Assembly, no ordinance regulating trees may be enforced on land owned or operated by a public airport authority.

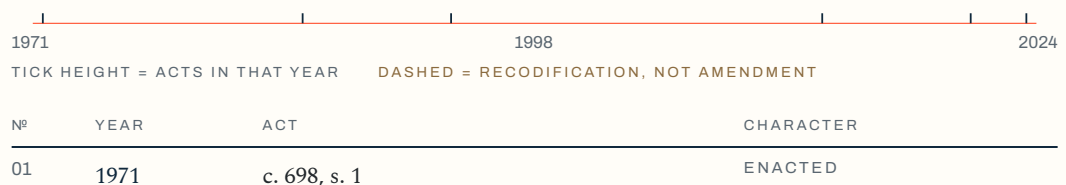
END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
6 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.



02	1985	c. 764, s. 35	AMENDED
03	1993	c. 329, s. 4	AMENDED
04	2013	S.L. 2013-331, s. 2	AMENDED
05	2021	S.L. 2021-138, s. 13(b)	AMENDED
06	2024	S.L. 2024-49, s. 5.2(n)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
13 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. 14-4	(b)	"misdemeanor or infraction as provided by"
G.S. 160A-75	(b)	"maximum imposed by G.S. 14-4. Notwithstanding"
G.S. 160A-193.1	(b1)(2)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160A-194	(b1)(3)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160A-199	(b1)(4)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160D-912	(b1)(4)	"of outdoor advertising or, its successor,"
G.S. 160A-201	(b1)(5)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160D-914	(b1)(5)	"regulating solar collectors or, its successor,"
G.S. 160A-202	(b1)(6)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160A-304	(b1)(7)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160A-306	(b1)(8)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 160A-307	(b1)(9)	"Any ordinance adopted pursuant to"
G.S. 143-139	(c1)	"State Building Code as authorized under"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-175 (2024).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-175(a) (2024).

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

(1971, c. 698, s. 1; 1985, c. 764, s. 35; 1993, c. 329, s. 4; 2013-331, s. 2; 2021-138, s. 13(b); 2024-49, s. 5.2(n).)

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

