



CHAPTER 66  
ARTICLE 2 - MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF MATCHES AND LIGHTERS

N.C.G.S. § 66-16.1.

Retail sale of novelty lighters prohibited.

|                                                                                    |                                                               |                                           |                                                                                              |
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| 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, 03:39 UTC | SOURCE FINGERPRINT<br>04126a27c41a87b4eddbbeb8 - d15e781400c7d79fe2f578d3 - 1c467d7a396b594e |
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**§ 66-16.1(a)** Definition. - As used in this section, the term "novelty lighter" means a mechanical or electrical device typically used for lighting cigarettes, cigars, or pipes, that is designed to resemble a cartoon character, toy, gun, watch, musical instrument, vehicle, animal, food or beverage, or similar articles, or that plays musical notes. A novelty lighter may operate on any fuel, including butane, isobutene, or liquid fuel.

**§ 66-16.1(b)** Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful to sell at retail, offer to sell at retail, or give, or distribute for retail sale or promotion, a novelty lighter in this State. This prohibition does not apply to the transportation of novelty lighters through this State or to the storage of novelty lighters in a warehouse or distribution center in this State that is closed to the public for purposes of retail sales.

**§ 66-16.1(c)** Exceptions. - The prohibition in this section does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A lighter manufactured prior to January 1, 1980.
- (2) Any mechanical or electrical device primarily used to ignite fuel for fireplaces or charcoal or gas grills.
- (3) Standard disposable or refillable lighters that are printed or decorated with logos, labels, decals or artwork, or heat shrinkable sleeves, but which do not otherwise resemble a novelty lighter.

**§ 66-16.1(d)** Penalty. - A violation of this section is an infraction and shall subject a violator to a penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each violation. The clear proceeds of

INFRACTION

any penalties imposed under this section shall be remitted in accordance with G.S. 115C-452. (2009-230, s. 3.)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

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. 115C-452 | (d)        | "shall be remitted in accordance with" |

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 66-16.1 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 66-16.1(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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