



CHAPTER 7A

ARTICLE 22 - JURISDICTION OF THE TRIAL DIVISIONS IN CRIMINAL ACTIONS

N.C.G.S. § 7A-273.

Powers of magistrates in infractions or criminal actions.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2021-78, s. 2(a) — twenty-ninth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 04:48 UTC	f21c2d7434e5be803e72ec14 - 69907c25a68d78f229399929 - 2f0e63d52955ffb4

In criminal actions or infractions, any magistrate has power:

In infraction cases in which the maximum penalty that can be imposed is not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), exclusive of costs, or in Class 3 misdemeanors, other than the types of infractions and misdemeanors specified in subdivision (2) of this section, to accept guilty pleas or admissions of responsibility and enter judgment;

In misdemeanor or infraction cases involving alcohol offenses under Chapter 18B of the General Statutes, traffic offenses, hunting, fishing, State park and recreation area rule offenses under Chapters 113 and 143B of the General Statutes, State forest rule offenses under Articles 74 and 75 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes, boating offenses under Chapter 75A of the General Statutes, open burning offenses under Article 78 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes, and littering offenses under G.S. 14-399(c) and G.S. 14-399(c1), to accept written appearances, waivers of trial or hearing and pleas of guilty or admissions of responsibility, in accordance with the schedule of offenses and fines or penalties promulgated by the Conference of Chief District Judges pursuant to G.S. 7A-148, and in such cases, to enter judgment and collect the fines or penalties and costs;

In misdemeanor cases involving the violation of a county ordinance authorized by law regulating the use of dune or beach buggies or other power-driven vehicles specified by the governing body of the county on the foreshore, beach strand, or the barrier dune system, to accept written appearances, waivers of trial or hearing, and pleas of guilty or admissions of responsibility, in accordance with the schedule of offenses and fines or penalties promulgated by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges pursuant to G.S. 7A-148, and in such cases, to enter judgment and collect the fines or penalties and costs;

To issue arrest warrants valid throughout the State;

To issue search warrants valid throughout the county;

To grant bail before trial for any noncapital offense;

Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this section, to hear and enter judgment as the chief district judge shall direct in all worthless check cases brought under G.S. 14-107, when the amount of the check is two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or less. Provided, however, that under this section magistrates may not impose a prison sentence longer than 30 days;

To conduct an initial appearance as provided in G.S. 15A-511; and

To accept written appearances, waivers of trial and pleas of guilty in violations of G.S. 14-107 when the amount of the check is two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or less, restitution, including service charges and processing fees allowed by G.S. 14-107, is made, and the warrant does not charge a fourth or subsequent violation of this statute, and in these cases to enter judgments as the chief district judge directs.

Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c. 900, s. 118(d).

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I

29 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.

			
1965		1993	2021
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT			
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1965	c. 310, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1969	c. 876, s. 2	AMENDED
03	1969	c. 1190, s. 25	AMENDED
04	1973	c. 6	AMENDED
05	1973	c. 503, s. 8	AMENDED
06	1973	c. 1286, s. 7	AMENDED
07	1975	c. 626, s. 4	AMENDED
08	1977	c. 873, s. 1	AMENDED
09	1979	c. 144, s. 3	AMENDED
10	1981	c. 555, s. 3	AMENDED

11	1983	c. 586, s. 5	AMENDED
12	1985	c. 425, s. 4	AMENDED
13	1985	c. 764, s. 16	AMENDED
14	1985	1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 852, s. 17	AMENDED
15	1987	c. 355, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
16	1989	c. 343	AMENDED
17	1989	c. 763	AMENDED
18	1989	1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 1041, s. 1	AMENDED
19	1991	c. 520, s. 2	AMENDED
20	1991	1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 900, s. 118(d)	AMENDED
21	1993	c. 374, s. 4	AMENDED
22	1993	c. 538, s. 35	AMENDED
23	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 14, s. 1	AMENDED
24	1994	c. 24, s. 14(b)	AMENDED
25	1999	S.L. 1999-80, s. 1	AMENDED
26	2002	S.L. 2002-159, s. 1	AMENDED
27	2014	S.L. 2014-115, s. 20	AMENDED
28	2015	S.L. 2015-241, s. 14.30(aa1)	AMENDED
29	2021	S.L. 2021-78, s. 2(a)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
5 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. 14-399(c)	(null)(2)	"General Statutes, and littering offenses under"
G.S. 14-399(c1)	(null)(2)	"littering offenses under G.S. 14-399(c) and"
G.S. 7A-148	(null)(2)	"of Chief District Judges pursuant to"
G.S. 14-107	(null)(6)	"all worthless check cases brought under"
G.S. 15A-511	(null)(7)	"an initial appearance as provided in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-273 (2021).

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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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

(1965, c. 310, s. 1; 1969, c. 876, s. 2; c. 1190, s. 25; 1973, c. 6; c. 503, s. 8; c. 1286, s. 7; 1975, c. 626, s. 4; 1977, c. 873, s. 1; 1979, c. 144, s. 3; 1981, c. 555, s. 3; 1983, c. 586, s. 5; 1985, c. 425, s. 4; c. 764, s. 16; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 852, s. 17; 1987, c. 355, ss. 1, 2; 1989, c. 343; c. 763; 1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 1041, s. 1; 1991, c. 520, s. 2; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 900, s. 118(d); 1993, c. 374, s. 4; c. 538, s. 35; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 14, s. 1; c. 24, s. 14(b); 1999-80, s. 1; 2002-159, s. 1; 2014-115, s. 20; 2015-241, s. 14.30(aa1); 2021-78, s. 2(a).)

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