

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 83
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/11/25
Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute Adopted 6/10/26

Short Title: Revise Laws on Minors/Human Trafficking.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 11, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE OFFENSE OF DISSEMINATING OBSCENITY TO MINORS;
TO ADD THE OFFENSES OF DISSEMINATING OBSCENITY TO MINORS,
DISSEMINATING HARMFUL MATERIAL TO MINORS, AND EXHIBITING
HARMFUL PERFORMANCES TO MINORS TO THE LIST OF CRIMINAL
CONVICTIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE REGISTRATION UNDER THE SEX
OFFENDER AND PUBLIC PROTECTION REGISTRATION PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE
THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION FROM VENDORS ON A SYSTEM FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED
HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**DISSEMINATION TO MINORS OF OBSCENITY AND MATERIAL HARMFUL TO
MINORS**

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 14-190.7 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-190.7. Dissemination to ~~minors under the age of 16 years.~~ minors.

(a) Offense and Punishment. – Every person 18 years of age or older ~~who is guilty of a Class H felony if the person knowingly disseminates to any minor under the age of 16 years any material which he the person knows or reasonably should know to be obscene within the meaning of G.S. 14-190.1 shall be guilty of a Class H felony and the person is at least four years older than the minor.~~

(b) Registration. – When a person is convicted of a violation of this section, the sentencing court shall consider whether the person is a danger to the community and whether requiring the person to register as a sex offender pursuant to Article 27A of this Chapter would further the purposes of that Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5. If the sentencing court rules that the person is a danger to the community and that the person shall register, then an order shall be entered requiring the person to register."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 14-190.8 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-190.8. Dissemination to minors under the age of 13 years.

(a) Offense and Punishment. – Every person 18 years of age or older who knowingly disseminates to any minor under the age of 13 years any material which ~~he the person~~ knows or reasonably should know to be obscene within the meaning of G.S. 14-190.1 ~~shall be punished as is guilty of a Class G felon.~~ felony.

(b) Registration. – When a person is convicted of a violation of this section, the sentencing court shall consider whether the person is a danger to the community and whether



1 requiring the person to register as a sex offender pursuant to Article 27A of this Chapter would
2 further the purposes of that Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5. If the sentencing court rules that
3 the person is a danger to the community and that the person shall register, then an order shall be
4 entered requiring the person to register."

5 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 14-190.15 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 14-190.15. Disseminating harmful material to minors; exhibiting harmful performances**
7 **to minors.**

8 (a) Disseminating Harmful Material. – A person commits the offense of disseminating
9 harmful material to minors if, with or without consideration and knowing the character or content
10 of the material, ~~he~~the person does either of the following:

11 (1) Sells, furnishes, presents, or distributes to a minor material that is harmful to
12 ~~minors; or~~minors.

13 (2) Allows a minor to review or peruse material that is harmful to minors.

14 (b) Exhibiting Harmful Performance. – A person commits the offense of exhibiting a
15 harmful performance to a minor if, with or without consideration and knowing the character or
16 content of the performance, ~~he~~the person allows a minor to view a live performance that is
17 harmful to minors.

18 ...

19 (e) Registration. – When a person is convicted of a violation of this section, the
20 sentencing court shall consider whether the person is a danger to the community and whether
21 requiring the person to register as a sex offender pursuant to Article 27A of this Chapter would
22 further the purposes of that Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5. If the sentencing court rules that
23 the person is a danger to the community and that the person shall register, then an order shall be
24 entered requiring the person to register."

25 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 14-208.6(4) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to
26 read:

27 "g. A final conviction for a violation of G.S. 14-190.7, 14-190.8, or
28 14-190.15, only if the court sentencing the individual issues an order
29 pursuant to the applicable provision of G.S. 14-190.7, 14-190.8, or
30 14-190.15, requiring the individual to register."

31 **SECTION 1.(e)** Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this
32 section are not abated or affected by this section, and the statutes that would be applicable but
33 for this section remain applicable to those prosecutions.

34 **SECTION 1.(f)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2026, and applies to
35 offenses committed on or after that date.

36 37 **RFI ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING**

38 **SECTION 2.(a)** The General Assembly finds all of the following:

39 (1) Human trafficking is a pervasive crime that often goes undetected. National
40 statistics indicate that hundreds of thousands of people are trafficked in the
41 United States each year, yet the vast majority are never identified.

42 (2) North Carolina is recognized as a leader in efforts to combat human
43 trafficking; however, frontline professionals, including law enforcement
44 officers, healthcare providers, teachers, and social workers, often lack the
45 training, tools, and resources necessary to adequately support victim-survivors
46 and hold traffickers accountable. Services remain fragmented and limited,
47 despite a strong desire for collaboration and coordination across sectors.

48 (3) Advances in the field have produced effective models for data collection,
49 needs assessment, and landscape analysis at the State, county, and regional
50 levels. These efforts help guide statewide partners in addressing a complex
51 and constantly evolving issue.

1 **SECTION 2.(b)** The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission (Commission)
2 shall conduct a request for information from vendors equipped to conduct a study on human
3 trafficking reporting, including information on the development process for a statewide human
4 trafficking reporting and response system (system). After the Commission has received the
5 responses to the request for information, the Commission is encouraged to begin development of
6 a system that facilitates referral to the National Human Trafficking hotline for crisis support as
7 necessary. It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a system that will (i) notify law
8 enforcement and child protection officials of high priority reports, (ii) provide a secure dashboard
9 for authorized personnel to view, triage, and respond to reports, and (iii) support real-time
10 communication between investigators and survivors or reporters with consent.

11 **SECTION 2.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
12

13 **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS**

14 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 143-805(d) reads as rewritten:

15 "(d) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to an official or employee that
16 is engaged in any of the following activities in the course of that official's or employee's official
17 duties:

18 ...

19 (8) Investigating matters involving offenders incarcerated with, or otherwise
20 under the supervision of, the Department of Adult Correction or matters
21 related to the misuse of devices owned by the Department of Adult
22 Correction."

23 **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 42A-39 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

24 "(c1) Third-Party Contractor Requirements. – A third-party contractor shall ensure that any
25 employee of the third-party contractor who performs housekeeping services at the vacation rental
26 or provides check-in and check-out services for the vacation rental receive human trafficking
27 awareness training as required by subsection (c) of this section."

28 **SECTION 3.(c)** G.S. 130A-511(b)(1) reads as rewritten:

29 "(1) In consultation with the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, the
30 North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association, and the Department of
31 Health and Human Services, develop a training course, or identify existing
32 training courses, to inform and educate individuals about human trafficking.
33 Chapter 150B of the General Statutes does not apply to any training required
34 to be developed or identified under this subdivision."

35 **SECTION 3.(d)** Subsection (a) of this section is effective when it becomes law and
36 applies to investigations occurring before, on, or after that date. Subsection (b) of this section is
37 effective when it becomes law and applies to training required to be completed on or after that
38 date. Subsection (c) of this section is effective when it becomes law and applies to training
39 developed or identified before, on, or after that date.
40

41 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

42 **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
43 law.