

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H

1

HOUSE BILL 258

Short Title: Utility Worker Protection Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives K. Hall, Miller, Crawford, and Jeffers (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Energy and Public Utilities, if favorable, Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar,
and Operations of the House

March 4, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT
AGAINST A UTILITY OR COMMUNICATIONS WORKER.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 14-33(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who commits any assault, assault and battery, or affray is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor if, in the course of the assault, assault and battery, or affray, ~~he or she~~he or she does any of the following:

- (1) Inflicts serious injury upon another person or uses a deadly ~~weapon~~weapon.
- (2) Assaults a female, he being a male person at least 18 years of ~~age~~age.
- (2a) Assaults a pregnant ~~woman~~woman.
- (3) Assaults a child under the age of 12 ~~years~~years.
- (4) Assaults an officer or employee of the State or any political subdivision of the State, when the officer or employee is discharging or attempting to discharge his or her official ~~duties~~duties.
- ...
- (9) Assaults a transportation network company (TNC) driver providing a transportation network company (TNC) service. For the purposes of this subdivision, the definitions for "TNC driver" and "TNC service" as defined in G.S. 20-280.1 shall apply.
- (10) Assaults a utility or communications worker while the worker is (i) readily identifiable as a worker and (ii) discharging or attempting to discharge his or her duties. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "utility or communications worker" means an employee of, agent of, or under contract with an organization, entity, or company, whether State created or privately, municipally, county, or cooperatively owned, that provides electricity, natural gas, telecommunications services, or internet access services. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "readily identifiable as a worker" shall be construed to include the worker wearing, at the time of the assault, a uniform, hat, or other outerwear bearing the logo of the utility or communications company for which the worker is an employee of, agent of, or under contract with."



* H 2 5 8 - V - 1 *

1 **SECTION 2.** Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this
2 act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act
3 remain applicable to those prosecutions.
4 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses
5 committed on or after that date.