

Article 36B.

Nuclear, Biological, or Chemical Weapons of Mass Destruction.

**§ 14-288.21. Unlawful manufacture, assembly, possession, storage, transportation, sale, purchase, delivery, or acquisition of a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction; exceptions; punishment.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly manufacture, assemble, possess, store, transport, sell, offer to sell, purchase, offer to purchase, deliver or give to another, or acquire a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction.

(b) This section does not apply to:

- (1) Persons listed in G.S. 14-269(b) with respect to any activities lawfully engaged in while carrying out their duties.
- (2) Persons under contract with, or working under the direction of, the United States, the State of North Carolina, or any agency of either government, with respect to any activities lawfully engaged in under their contracts or pursuant to lawful direction.
- (3) Persons lawfully engaged in the development, production, manufacture, assembly, possession, transport, sale, purchase, delivery or acquisition of any biological agent, disease organism, toxic or poisonous chemical, radioactive substance or their immediate precursors, for preventive, protective, or other peaceful purposes.
- (4) Persons lawfully engaged in accepted agricultural, horticultural, or forestry practices; aquatic weed control; or structural pest and rodent control, in a manner approved by the federal, State, county, or local agency charged with authority over such activities.

(c) The term "nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction", as used in this Article, means any of the following:

- (1) Any weapon, device, or method that is designed or has the capability to cause death or serious injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of:
  - a. Radiation or radioactivity;
  - b. A disease organism; or
  - c. Toxic or poisonous chemicals or their immediate precursors.
- (2) Any substance that is designed or has the capability to cause death or serious injury and:
  - a. Contains radiation or radioactivity;
  - b. Is or contains toxic or poisonous chemicals or their immediate precursors; or
  - c. Is or contains one or more of the following:
    1. Any select agent that is a microorganism, virus, bacterium, fungus, rickettsia, or toxin listed in Appendix A of Part 72 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
    2. Any genetically modified microorganisms or genetic elements from an organism on Appendix A of Part 72 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, shown to produce or encode for a factor associated with a disease.
    3. Any genetically modified microorganisms or genetic elements that contain nucleic acid sequences coding for any of the toxins

listed on Appendix A of Part 72 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or their toxic submits.

The term "nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction" also includes any combination of parts or substances either designed or intended for use in converting any device or substance into any nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction or from which a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction may be readily assembled or created.

(d) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a Class B1 felony. (2001-470, s. 1.)

**§ 14-288.22. Unlawful use of a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction; punishment.**

(a) Any person who unlawfully and willfully injures another by the use of a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction is guilty of a Class A felony and shall be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

(b) Any person who attempts, solicits another, or conspires to injure another by the use of a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction is guilty of a Class B1 felony.

(c) Any person who for the purpose of violating any provision of this Article, deposits for delivery or attempts to have delivered, a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction by the United States Postal Service or other public or private business engaged in the delivery of mail, packages, or parcels is guilty of a Class B1 felony. (2001-470, s. 1.)

**§ 14-288.23. Making a false report concerning a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction; punishment; restitution.**

(a) Any person who, by any means of communication to any person or group of persons, makes a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that causes any person to reasonably believe that there is located at any place or structure whatsoever any nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction is guilty of a Class D felony.

(b) The court may order a person convicted under this section to pay restitution, including costs and consequential damages resulting from disruption of the normal activity that would have otherwise occurred but for the false report, pursuant to Article 81C of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "report" shall include making accessible to another person by computer. (2001-470, s. 1.)

**§ 14-288.24. Perpetrating hoax by use of false nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction; punishment; restitution.**

(a) Any person who, with intent to perpetrate a hoax, conceals, places, or displays any device, object, machine, instrument, or artifact, so as to cause any person reasonably to believe the same to be a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction is guilty of a Class D felony.

(b) The court may order a person convicted under this section to pay restitution, including costs and consequential damages resulting from disruption of the normal activity that would have otherwise occurred but for the hoax, pursuant to Article 81C of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes. (2001-470, s. 1.)