

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL DRS45213-ML-109

Short Title: Raise the Age of Sexual Consent.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jarvis, Britt, and Sawyer (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE AGE OF SEXUAL CONSENT FROM 16 YEARS OF AGE TO  
3 18 YEARS OF AGE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 14-27.25 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 14-27.25. Statutory rape of person who is ~~15-17~~ years of age or younger.

7 (a) A defendant is guilty of a Class B1 felony if the defendant engages in vaginal  
8 intercourse with another person who is ~~15-17~~ years of age or younger and the defendant is at east  
9 12 years old and at least ~~six-four~~ years older than the person, except when the defendant is  
10 lawfully married to the person.

11 (b) Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater  
12 punishment, a defendant is guilty of a Class C felony if the defendant engages in vaginal  
13 intercourse with another person who is ~~15-17~~ years of age or younger and the defendant is at least  
14 12 years old and more than ~~four-two~~ but less than ~~six-four~~ years older than the person, except  
15 when the defendant is lawfully married to the person."

16 SECTION 2. G.S. 14-27.30 reads as rewritten:

17 "§ 14-27.30. Statutory sexual offense with a person who is ~~15-17~~ years of age or younger.

18 (a) A defendant is guilty of a Class B1 felony if the defendant engages in a sexual act  
19 with another person who is ~~15-17~~ years of age or younger and the defendant is at least 12 years  
20 old and at least ~~six-four~~ years older than the person, except when the defendant is lawfully married  
21 to the person.

22 (b) Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater  
23 punishment, a defendant is guilty of a Class C felony if the defendant engages in a sexual act  
24 with another person who is ~~15-17~~ years of age or younger and the defendant is at least 12 years  
25 old and more than ~~four-two~~ but less than ~~six-four~~ years older than the person, except when the  
26 defendant is lawfully married to the person."

27 SECTION 3. G.S. 14-178 reads as rewritten:

28 "§ 14-178. Incest.

29 ...

30 (b) Punishment and Sentencing. –

31 (1) A person is guilty of a Class B1 felony if either of the following occurs:

32 a. The person commits incest against a child under the age of 13 and the  
33 person is at least 12 years old and is at least four years older than the  
34 child when the incest occurred.



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b. The person commits incest against a child who is 13, 14, ~~or 15-15, 16,~~  
or 17 years old and the person is at least six years older than the child  
when the incest occurred.

(2) A person is guilty of a Class C felony if the person commits incest against a  
child who is 13, 14, ~~or 15-15, 16, or 17 years old~~ and the person is more than  
four but less than six years older than the child when the incest occurred.

(3) In all other cases of incest, the parties are guilty of a Class F felony.

(c) No Liability for Children Under ~~16-18.~~ – No child under the age of ~~16-18~~ is liable  
under this section if the other person is at least four years older when the incest occurred."

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 14-190.7 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 14-190.7. Dissemination to minors under the age of 16-18 years.**

Every person 18 years of age or older who knowingly disseminates to any minor under the  
age of ~~16-18~~ 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 I felony."

**SECTION 5.** G.S. 14-202.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 14-202.1. Taking indecent liberties with children.**

(a) A person is guilty of taking indecent liberties with children if, being ~~16-18~~ years of  
age or more and at least five years older than the child in question, ~~he either;~~the person does  
either of the following:

(1) Willfully takes or attempts to take any immoral, improper, or indecent liberties  
with any child of either sex under the age of ~~16-18~~ years for the purpose of  
arousing or gratifying sexual ~~desire;~~or desire.

(2) Willfully commits or attempts to commit any lewd or lascivious act upon or  
with the body or any part or member of the body of any child of either sex  
under the age of ~~16-18~~ years.

...."

**SECTION 6.** G.S. 14-202.2 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 14-202.2. Indecent liberties between children.**

(a) A person who is under the age of ~~16-18~~ years is guilty of taking indecent liberties with  
children if the person ~~either;~~does either of the following:

(1) Willfully takes or attempts to take any immoral, improper, or indecent liberties  
with any child of either sex who is at least three years younger than the  
defendant for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual ~~desire;~~or desire.

(2) Willfully commits or attempts to commit any lewd or lascivious act upon or  
with the body or any part or member of the body of any child of either sex  
who is at least three years younger than the defendant for the purpose of  
arousing or gratifying sexual desire.

...."

**SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses  
committed on or after that date.