

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

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HOUSE BILL 39
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/21/94

Short Title: Three Strikes You're In.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 8, 1994

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT UPON A THIRD CONVICTION OF CERTAIN
3 VIOLENT FELONIES AN OFFENDER IS A VIOLENT HABITUAL FELON
4 AND SHALL BE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT
5 PAROLE, UNLESS THE OFFENDER IS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR A
6 CAPITAL OFFENSE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
9 Article to read:

10 **"ARTICLE 2B.**

11 **"VIOLENT HABITUAL FELONS.**

12 **"§ 14-7.7. Persons defined as violent habitual felons.**

13 (a) Any person who has been convicted of two violent felonies in any federal
14 court, in a court of this or any other state of the United States, or in a combination of
15 these courts is declared to be a violent habitual felon. For purposes of this Article,
16 'convicted' means the person has been adjudged guilty of or has entered a plea of guilty
17 or no contest to the violent felony charge, and judgment has been entered thereon when
18 such action occurred on or after July 6, 1967. This Article does not apply to a second
19 violent felony unless it is committed after the conviction or plea of guilty or no contest
20 to the first violent felony. Any felony to which a pardon has been extended shall not,
21 for the purposes of this Article, constitute a felony. The burden of proving a pardon
22 shall rest with the defendant, and this State shall not be required to disprove a pardon.

1 Conviction as an habitual felon shall not, for purposes of this Article, constitute a
2 violent felony.

3 (b) For purposes of this Article, 'violent felony' includes the following offenses:

- 4 (1) a. Murder in the first and second degrees, G.S. 14-17.
5 b. Voluntary manslaughter, G.S. 14-18.
6 c. Killing an adversary in a duel, G.S. 14-30.
7 d. First degree rape, G.S. 14-27.2.
8 e. Second degree rape, G.S. 14-27.3.
9 f. First degree sexual offense, G.S. 14-27.4.
10 g. Second degree sexual offense, G.S. 14-27.5.
11 h. Intercourse and sexual offense by a parent or custodian, G.S.
12 14-27.7.
13 i. Malicious castration, G.S. 14-28.
14 j. Castration or maiming without malice aforethought, G.S. 14-29.
15 k. Malicious maiming, G.S. 14-30.
16 l. Malicious throwing of acid or alkali, G.S. 14-30.1.
17 m. Malicious assaulting in a secret manner, G.S. 14-31.
18 n. Any felony assault set forth in G.S. 14-32.
19 o. Felony assault on a handicapped person, G.S. 14-32.
20 p. Patient abuse and neglect, negligent or intentional, G.S. 14-
21 32.2.
22 q. Discharging firearm in occupied property, G.S. 14-34.1.
23 r. Adulterated or misbranded foods or drugs, G.S. 14-34.4.
24 s. Kidnapping in the first or second degree, G.S. 14-39.
25 t. Malicious use of explosive or incendiary devices, G.S. 14-49.
26 u. Malicious damage of occupied property by the use of explosive,
27 G.S. 14-49.1.
28 v. Burglary in the first or second degree, G.S. 14-51.
29 w. Breaking out of a dwelling house, G.S. 14-53.
30 x. Burglary with explosives, G.S. 14-57.
31 y. Arson in the first or second degree, G.S. 14-58.
32 z. Burning of a mobile home, manufactured housing, or
33 recreational trailer, G.S. 14-58.2.
34 aa. Burning of public building, G.S. 14-59.
35 bb. Burning of a schoolhouse or building of an educational
36 institution, G.S. 14-60.
37 cc. Burning of bridges and buildings, G.S. 14-61.
38 dd. Burning of churches and other buildings, G.S. 14-62.
39 ee. Burning of building or structure in the process of construction,
40 G.S. 14-62.1.
41 ff. Common law robbery.
42 gg. Robbery with a firearm or dangerous weapon, G.S. 14-87.
43 hh. Train robbery, G.S. 14-88.
44 ii. Contaminating a public water supply, G.S. 14-159.1.

- 1 jj. Felonious child abuse, G.S. 14-318.4.
2 kk. First degree sexual exploitation of a minor, G.S. 14-190.16.
3 ll. Distribution of adulterated food, G.S. 14-401.11.
4 mm. Manufacture, sale, or delivery or possess with intent to
5 manufacture, sell, or deliver a controlled substance within 300
6 feet of a school, G.S. 90-95(e)(8).
7 nn. Selling and delivery of controlled substance by a person 18 or
8 over to a person under 16, G.S. 90-95.
9 oo. Discharge of oil or hazardous substance placing another in
10 danger of death or serious bodily injury, G.S. 143-225.88(b).
11 (2) Any repealed or superseded offense substantially equivalent to the
12 offenses listed in subdivision (1).
13 (3) Any offense committed in another jurisdiction substantially equivalent
14 to the offenses set forth in subdivision (1) or (2).

15 **"§ 14-7.8. Punishment.**

16 When a person is charged by indictment with the commission of a violent felony and
17 is also charged with being a violent habitual felon as defined in G.S. 14-7.7, the person
18 must, upon conviction, be sentenced in accordance with this Article, except in those
19 cases where the death penalty is imposed.

20 **"§ 14-7.9. Charge of violent habitual felon.**

21 An indictment that charges a person who is a violent habitual felon within the
22 meaning of G.S. 14-7.7 with the commission of any violent felony must, in order to
23 sustain a conviction of violent habitual felon, also charge that the person is a violent
24 habitual felon. The indictment charging the defendant as a violent habitual felon shall
25 be separate from the indictment charging the defendant with the principal violent
26 felony. An indictment that charges a person with being a violent habitual felon must set
27 forth the date that prior violent felonies were committed, the name of the state or other
28 sovereign against whom the violent felonies were committed, the dates of convictions of
29 the violent felonies, and the identity of the court in which the convictions took place. A
30 defendant charged with being a violent habitual felon in a bill of indictment shall not be
31 required to go to trial on that charge within 20 days after the finding of a true bill by the
32 grand jury unless the defendant waives this 20-day period.

33 **"§ 14-7.10. Evidence of prior convictions of violent felonies.**

34 In all cases where a person is charged under this Article with being a violent habitual
35 felon, the records of prior convictions of violent felonies shall be admissible in
36 evidence, but only for the purpose of proving that the person has been convicted of
37 former violent felonies. A prior conviction may be proved by stipulation of the parties
38 or by the original or a certified copy of the court record of the prior conviction. The
39 original or certified copy of the court record, bearing the same name as that by which
40 the defendant is charged, shall be **prima facie** evidence that the defendant named
41 therein is the same as the defendant before the court, and shall be **prima facie** evidence
42 of the facts set out therein.

43 **"§ 14-7.11. Verdict and judgment.**

1 When an indictment charges a violent habitual felon with a violent felony as
2 provided in this Article and an indictment also charges that the person is a violent
3 habitual felon as provided in this Article, the defendant shall be tried for the principal
4 violent felony as provided by law. The indictment that the person is a violent habitual
5 felon shall not be revealed to the jury unless the jury finds that the defendant is guilty of
6 the principal violent felony or another violent felony with which the defendant is
7 charged. If the jury finds the defendant guilty of a violent felony, the bill of indictment
8 charging the defendant as a violent habitual felon may be presented to the same jury.
9 Except that the same jury may be used, the proceedings shall be as if the issue of violent
10 habitual felon were a principal charge. If the jury finds that the defendant is a violent
11 habitual felon, the trial judge shall enter judgment according to the provisions of this
12 Article. If the jury finds that the defendant is not a violent habitual felon, the trial judge
13 shall pronounce judgment on the principal violent felony or felonies as provided by law.

14 **"§ 14-7.12. Sentencing of violent habitual felons.**

15 A person who is convicted of a violent felony and of being a violent habitual felon
16 must, upon conviction (except where the death penalty is imposed), be sentenced to life
17 in the State's prison, without parole. Life without parole means that the person will
18 spend the remainder of the person's natural life in prison. The sentencing judge may not
19 suspend the sentence and may not place the person sentenced on probation. Sentences
20 for violent habitual felons imposed under this Article shall run consecutively with and
21 shall commence at the expiration of any other sentence being served by the person."

22 Sec. 2. Effective on the date Section 1 of Chapter 538 of the 1993 Session
23 Laws becomes effective, G.S. 14-7.7(b), as enacted by Section 1 of this act, reads as
24 rewritten:

25 "(b) ~~For purposes of this Article, 'violent felony' includes the following offenses:~~

- 26 (1) ~~a. Murder in the first and second degrees, G.S. 14-17.~~
27 ~~b. Voluntary manslaughter, G.S. 14-18.~~
28 ~~c. Killing an adversary in a duel, G.S. 14-30.~~
29 ~~d. First degree rape, G.S. 14-27.2.~~
30 ~~e. Second degree rape, G.S. 14-27.3.~~
31 ~~f. First degree sexual offense, G.S. 14-27.4.~~
32 ~~g. Second degree sexual offense, G.S. 14-27.5.~~
33 ~~h. Intercourse and sexual offense by a parent or custodian, G.S.~~
34 ~~14-27.7.~~
35 ~~i. Malicious castration, G.S. 14-28.~~
36 ~~j. Castration or maiming without malice aforethought, G.S. 14-29.~~
37 ~~k. Malicious maiming, G.S. 14-30.~~
38 ~~l. Malicious throwing of acid or alkali, G.S. 14-30.1.~~
39 ~~m. Malicious assaulting in a secret manner, G.S. 14-31.~~
40 ~~n. Any felony assault set forth in G.S. 14-32.~~
41 ~~o. Felony assault on a handicapped person, G.S. 14-32.~~
42 ~~p. Patient abuse and neglect, negligent or intentional, G.S. 14-~~
43 ~~32.2.~~
44 ~~q. Discharging firearm in occupied property, G.S. 14-34.1.~~

- 1 f. Adulterated or misbranded foods or drugs, G.S. 14-34.4.
 2 s. Kidnapping in the first or second degree, G.S. 14-39.
 3 t. Malicious use of explosive or incendiary devices, G.S. 14-49.
 4 u. Malicious damage of occupied property by the use of explosive,
 5 G.S. 14-49.1.
 6 v. Burglary in the first or second degree, G.S. 14-51.
 7 w. Breaking out of a dwelling house, G.S. 14-53.
 8 x. Burglary with explosives, G.S. 14-57.
 9 y. Arson in the first or second degree, G.S. 14-58.
 10 z. Burning of a mobile home, manufactured housing, or
 11 recreational trailer, G.S. 14-58.2.
 12 aa. Burning of public building, G.S. 14-59.
 13 bb. Burning of a schoolhouse or building of an educational
 14 institution, G.S. 14-60.
 15 cc. Burning of bridges and buildings, G.S. 14-61.
 16 dd. Burning of churches and other buildings, G.S. 14-62.
 17 ee. Burning of building or structure in the process of construction,
 18 G.S. 14-62.1.
 19 ff. Common law robbery.
 20 gg. Robbery with a firearm or dangerous weapon, G.S. 14-87.
 21 hh. Train robbery, G.S. 14-88.
 22 ii. Contaminating a public water supply, G.S. 14-159.1.
 23 jj. Felonious child abuse, G.S. 14-318.4.
 24 kk. First degree sexual exploitation of a minor, G.S. 14-190.16.
 25 ll. Distribution of adulterated food G.S. 14-401.11.
 26 mm. ~~Manufacture, sale, or delivery or possess with intent to~~
 27 ~~manufacture, sale, or deliver a controlled substance within 300~~
 28 ~~feet of a school, G.S. 90-90.~~
 29 nn. ~~Selling and delivery of controlled substance by a person 18 or~~
 30 ~~over to a person under 16, G.S. 90-95.~~
 31 oo. ~~Discharge of oil or hazardous substance placing another in~~
 32 ~~danger of death or serious bodily injury, G.S. 143-225.88(b).~~
 33 (2) ~~Any repealed or superseded offense substantially equivalent to the~~
 34 ~~offenses listed in subdivision (1).~~
 35 (3) ~~Any offense committed in another jurisdiction substantially equivalent~~
 36 ~~to the offenses set forth in subdivision (1) or (2).~~
 37 (b) For purposes of this Article, 'violent felony' includes the following offenses:
 38 (1) All Class A through E felonies.
 39 (2) Any repealed or superseded offense substantially equivalent to the
 40 offenses listed in subdivision (1).
 41 (3) Any offense committed in another jurisdiction substantially equivalent
 42 to the offenses set forth in subdivision (1) or (2)."

43 Sec. 3. G.S. 15A-1370.1 reads as rewritten:

44 "§ 15A-1370.1. Applicability of Article 85.

1 This Article ~~is applicable~~ applies to all sentenced prisoners, including Class A and
2 Class B felons, and Class C felons who receive a sentence of life imprisonment, who are
3 not subject to Article 85A of this ~~Chapter~~. Chapter, but shall not apply to prisoners who
4 receive life imprisonment without parole. A person serving a sentence of life
5 imprisonment without parole shall not be eligible for parole at any time."

6 Sec. 4. G.S. 15A-1370.1, as amended by Section 21 of Chapter 538 of the
7 1993 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 15A-1370.1. Applicability of Article 85.**

9 This Article is applicable to all prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment for
10 convictions of impaired driving under G.S. 20-138.1 and prisoners serving sentences of
11 life imprisonment. This Article does not apply to a person serving a sentence of life
12 imprisonment without parole. A person serving a sentence of life imprisonment without
13 parole shall not be eligible for parole at any time."

14 Sec. 5. G.S. 15A-1340.10, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 538 of the
15 1993 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

16 **"§ 15A-1340.10. Applicability of structured sentencing.**

17 This Article applies to criminal offenses in North Carolina, other than impaired
18 driving under G.S. 20-138.1 that occur on or after January 1, 1995. This Article does
19 not apply to violent habitual felons sentenced under Article 2B of Chapter 14 of the
20 General Statutes."

21 Sec. 6. Sections 1 and 6 of this act become effective May 1, 1994. Section 3
22 of this act becomes effective May 1, 1994, and expires on the date that Section 1 of
23 Chapter 538 of the 1993 Session Laws becomes effective, but prosecution for, or
24 sentences based on, offenses occurring before that date are not abated or affected by the
25 expiration of that section. Sections 2, 4, and 5 of this act become effective on the date
26 that Section 1 of Chapter 538 of the 1993 Session Laws becomes effective. Prosecution
27 for, or sentences based on, offenses occurring before the effective date of this act are not
28 abated or affected by the repeal or amendment in this act of any statute, and the statutes
29 that would be applicable to those prosecutions or sentences but for the provisions of this
30 act remain applicable to those prosecutions or sentences.