



# HOUSE BILL 258: Utility Worker Protection Act.

**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

2025-2026 General Assembly

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**Committee:** House Energy and Public Utilities. If **Date:** March 19, 2025  
favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 2. If favorable,  
re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of  
the House

**Introduced by:** Reps. K. Hall, Miller, Crawford, Jeffers      **Prepared by:** Kyle Evans  
**Analysis of:** PCS to First Edition      Committee Counsel  
H258-CSBR-4

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**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 258 would increase the punishment for committing an assault against a utility or communications worker to a Class A1 misdemeanor.*

*The PCS adds water and wastewater utility workers to the class of utility workers covered by the bill.*

### CURRENT LAW & BILL ANALYSIS:

G.S. 14-33(a) makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for a person to commit a simple assault, a simple assault and battery, or participate in a simple affray. Subsection (c) of that section increases the penalty to a Class A1 misdemeanor if the assault, assault and battery, or affray results in serious injury, involves the use of a deadly weapon, or is committed against certain classes of people.

**Section 1** would make it a Class A1 misdemeanor to commit an assault, an assault and battery, or affray against 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.

"Utility or communications worker" is defined in this section to include, broadly, any employee of any entity that provides electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications services, or internet access services. To be readily identifiable, the worker would need to be wearing, at the time of the assault, a uniform, hat, or other outerwear bearing the utility or communications company's logo for which the worker is an employee.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would be effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of the act would not be abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act would remain applicable to those prosecutions.

Kara McCraw  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578