



HOUSE BILL 258: Utility Worker Protection Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 1, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. K. Hall, Miller, Crawford, Jeffers	Prepared by:	Debbie Griffiths
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 258 would increase the punishment for committing an assault against a "utility or communications worker" to a Class A1 misdemeanor.*

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.

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