

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 408  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/27/03  
Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 6/9/03

Short Title: Amend Secret Peeping Law.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 12, 2003

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE SECRET PEEPING STATUTE AND TO MAKE  
3 CONFORMING CHANGES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 14-202 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 14-202. Secretly peeping into room occupied by ~~female person~~ another person.

7 (a) Any person who shall peep secretly into any room occupied by a ~~female~~  
8 ~~person~~ another person shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

9 (b) For purposes of this section:

10 (1) The term "photographic image" means any photograph or  
11 photographic reproduction, still or moving, or any videotape, motion  
12 picture, or live television transmission, or any digital image of any  
13 individual.

14 (2) The term "room" shall include, but is not limited to, a bedroom, a rest  
15 room, a bathroom, a shower, and a dressing room.

16 (c) Unless covered by another provision of law providing greater punishment,  
17 any person who, while in possession of any device which may be used to create a  
18 photographic image, shall secretly peep into any room shall be guilty of a Class A1  
19 misdemeanor.

20 (d) Unless covered by another provision of law providing greater punishment,  
21 any person who, while secretly peeping into any room, uses any device to create a  
22 photographic image of another person in that room for the purpose of arousing or  
23 gratifying the sexual desire of any person shall be guilty of a Class I felony.

24 (e) Any person who secretly or surreptitiously uses any device to create a  
25 photographic image of another person underneath or through the clothing being worn by  
26 that other person for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by,  
27 that other person without their consent shall be guilty of a Class I felony.

1       (f) Any person who, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of  
2 any person, secretly or surreptitiously uses or installs in a room any device that can be  
3 used to create a photographic image with the intent to capture the image of another  
4 without their consent shall be guilty of a Class I felony.

5       (g) Any person who knowingly possesses a photographic image that the person  
6 knows, or has reason to believe, was obtained in violation of this section shall be guilty  
7 of a Class I felony.

8       (h) Any person who disseminates or allows to be disseminated images that the  
9 person knows, or should have known, were obtained as a result of the violation of this  
10 section shall be guilty of a Class H felony if the dissemination is without the consent of  
11 the person in the photographic image.

12       (i) A second or subsequent felony conviction under this section shall be  
13 punished as though convicted of an offense one class higher. A second or subsequent  
14 conviction for a Class 1 misdemeanor shall be punished as a Class A1 misdemeanor. A  
15 second or subsequent conviction for a Class A1 misdemeanor shall be punished as a  
16 Class I felony.

17       (j) If the defendant is placed on probation as a result of violation of this section:

18           (1) For a first conviction under this section, the judge may impose a  
19 requirement that the defendant obtain a psychological evaluation and  
20 comply with any treatment recommended as a result of that evaluation.

21           (2) For a second or subsequent conviction under this section, the judge  
22 shall impose a requirement that the defendant obtain a psychological  
23 evaluation and comply with any treatment recommended as a result of  
24 that evaluation.

25       (k) Any person whose image is captured or disseminated in violation of this  
26 section has a civil cause of action against any person who captured or disseminated the  
27 image or procured any other person to capture or disseminate the image and is entitled  
28 to recover from those persons actual damages, punitive damages, reasonable attorneys'  
29 fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.

30       (l) When a person violates subsection (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h) of this section, or is  
31 convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (a) or (c) of this section, the  
32 sentencing court shall consider whether the person is a danger to the community and  
33 whether requiring the person to register as a sex offender pursuant to Article 27A of this  
34 Chapter would further the purposes of that Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5. If the  
35 sentencing court rules that the person is a danger to the community and that the person  
36 shall register, then an order shall be entered requiring the person to register.

37       (m) The provisions of subsections (a), (c), (e), (g), (h), and (k) of this section do  
38 not apply to:

39           (1) Law enforcement officers while discharging or attempting to discharge  
40 their official duties; or

41           (2) Personnel of the Department of Correction or of a local confinement  
42 facility for security purposes or during investigation of alleged  
43 misconduct by a person in the custody of the Department or the local  
44 confinement facility.

1       (n) This section does not affect the legal activities of those who are licensed  
2 pursuant to Chapter 74C, Private Protective Services, or Chapter 74D, Alarm Systems,  
3 of the General Statutes, who are legally engaged in the discharge of their official duties  
4 within their respective professions, and who are not engaging in activities for an  
5 improper purpose as described in this section."

6       **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-208.6(4) reads as rewritten:

7       "(4) 'Reportable conviction' means:

- 8           a. A final conviction for an offense against a minor, a sexually  
9           violent offense, or an attempt to commit any of those offenses  
10           unless the conviction is for aiding and abetting. A final  
11           conviction for aiding and abetting is a reportable conviction  
12           only if the court sentencing the individual finds that the  
13           registration of that individual under this Article furthers the  
14           purposes of this Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5.
- 15           b. A final conviction in another state of an offense, which if  
16           committed in this State, is substantially similar to an offense  
17           against a minor or a sexually violent offense as defined by this  
18           section.
- 19           c. A final conviction in a federal jurisdiction (including a court  
20           martial) of an offense, which is substantially similar to an  
21           offense against a minor or a sexually violent offense as defined  
22           by this section.
- 23           d. A final conviction for a violation of G.S. 14-202(d), (e), (f),  
24 (g), or (h), or a second or subsequent conviction for a violation  
25 of G.S. 14-202(a) or (c), only if the court sentencing the  
26 individual issues an order pursuant to G.S. 14-202(l) requiring  
27 the individual to register."

28       **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2003, and applies to  
29 offenses committed on or after that date.