

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

SESSION LAW 2025-70
SENATE BILL 429

AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES RELATED TO THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF
NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**CREATE NEW CRIMINAL OFFENSE FOR EXPOSING A CHILD TO A
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

SECTION 1.(a) Article 39 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 14-318.7. Exposing a child to a controlled substance.

- (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:
- (1) Child. – Any person who is less than 16 years of age.
- (2) Controlled substance. – A controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, drug, marijuana, narcotic drug, opiate, opioid, opium poppy, poppy straw, or targeted controlled substance, all as defined in G.S. 90-87.
- (3) Ingest. – Any means used to take into the body, to eat or drink, or otherwise consume or absorb into the body in any way.
- (b) A person who knowingly, intentionally, or with reckless disregard for human life causes or permits a child to be exposed to a controlled substance is guilty of a Class H felony.
- (c) A person who knowingly, intentionally, or with reckless disregard for human life causes or permits a child to be exposed to a controlled substance and, as a result, the child ingests the controlled substance is guilty of a Class E felony.
- (d) A person who knowingly, intentionally, or with reckless disregard for human life causes or permits a child to be exposed to a controlled substance and, as a result, the child ingests the controlled substance, resulting in serious physical injury as defined in G.S. 14-318.4, is guilty of a Class D felony.
- (e) A person who knowingly, intentionally, or with reckless disregard for human life causes or permits a child to be exposed to a controlled substance and, as a result, the child ingests the controlled substance, resulting in serious bodily injury as defined in G.S. 14-318.4, is guilty of a Class C felony.
- (f) A person who knowingly, intentionally, or with reckless disregard for human life causes or permits a child to be exposed to a controlled substance and, as a result, the child ingests the controlled substance, and the ingestion is the proximate cause of death, is guilty of a Class B1 felony.
- (g) The punishments set forth in subsections (b) through (f) of this section apply unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment.
- (h) This section does not apply to a person that intentionally gives a child a controlled substance that has been prescribed for the child by a licensed medical professional when given to the child in the prescribed amount and manner."

SECTION 1.(b) This section becomes **effective December 1, 2025**, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

