

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 822  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/28/93  
Third Edition Engrossed 5/3/93

Short Title: Amend Computer Crime Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 8, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS REGARDING COMPUTER-RELATED CRIME.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 60 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

**"ARTICLE 60.**

**"COMPUTER-RELATED CRIME."**

**"§ 14-453. Definitions.**

As used in this ~~section~~, Article, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms have the meanings specified:

(1) 'Access' means to ~~approach~~, instruct, communicate with, cause input, cause output, cause data processing, or otherwise make use of any resources of a computer, ~~computer system~~ computer system, or computer network.

(1a) 'Authorization' means having the consent or permission of the owner, or of the person licensed or authorized by the owner to grant consent or permission to access a computer, computer system, or computer network in a manner not exceeding the consent or permission.

(2) 'Computer' means an internally programmed, automatic device that performs data processing.

- 1 (3) 'Computer network' means the interconnection of communication  
2 systems with a computer through remote terminals, or a complex  
3 consisting of two or more interconnected computers.
- 4 (4) 'Computer program' means an ordered set of data that are coded  
5 instructions or statements that when executed by a computer cause the  
6 computer to process data.
- 7 (5) 'Computer software' means a set of computer programs, procedures  
8 and associated documentation concerned with the operation of a  
9 ~~computer system.~~ computer, computer system, or computer network.
- 10 (6) 'Computer system' means ~~a set of related, connected or unconnected~~  
11 ~~computer equipment and devices.~~ at least one computer together with a  
12 set of related, connected, or unconnected peripheral devices.
- 13 (6a) 'Data' means a representation of information, facts, knowledge,  
14 concepts, or instructions prepared in a formalized or other manner and  
15 intended for use in a computer, computer system, or computer  
16 network. Data may be embodied in any form, including computer  
17 printouts, magnetic storage media, and punch cards, or may be stored  
18 internally in the memory of a computer.
- 19 (7) 'Financial ~~statement~~' instrument includes ~~but is not limited to~~ any check,  
20 draft, money order, certificate of deposit, letter of credit, bill of  
21 exchange, credit card ~~of~~ ~~or~~ or marketable security, or any electronic  
22 data processing representation thereof.
- 23 (8) 'Property' includes ~~but is not limited to,~~ financial instruments,  
24 information, including electronically processed or produced data, and  
25 computer software and computer programs in either machine or human  
26 readable form, and any other tangible or intangible item of value.
- 27 (8a) 'Resource' includes peripheral devices, computer software, computer  
28 programs, and data, and means to be a part of a computer, computer  
29 system, or computer network.
- 30 (9) 'Services' ~~includes, but is not limited to,~~ includes computer time, data  
31 processing and storage functions.

32 **"§ 14-454. Accessing computers.**

- 33 (a) A person is guilty of a Class H felony if he willfully, directly or indirectly,  
34 accesses or causes to be accessed any computer, computer system, or computer network,  
35 ~~or any part thereof,~~ network for the purpose of:
- 36 (1) Devising or executing any scheme or artifice to defraud, unless the  
37 object of the scheme or artifice is to obtain educational testing  
38 material, a false educational testing score, or a false academic or  
39 vocational grade, or
- 40 (2) Obtaining property or services other than educational testing material,  
41 a false educational testing score, or a false academic or vocational  
42 grade for himself or another, by means of false or fraudulent pretenses,  
43 representations or promises.

1 (b) Any person who willfully and without authorization, directly or indirectly,  
2 accesses or causes to be accessed any computer, computer system, or computer network,  
3 ~~or any part thereof,~~ network for any purpose other than those set forth in subsection (a)  
4 above, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

5 (c) For the purpose of this section, the term 'accessing or causing to be accessed'  
6 includes introducing, directly or indirectly, a computer program (including a self-  
7 replicating or a self-propagating computer program), into a computer, computer system,  
8 or computer network.

9 **"§ 14-455. Damaging ~~computers and related materials.~~ computers, computer systems,**  
10 **computer networks, and resources.**

11 (a) A person is guilty of a Class H felony if he willfully and without  
12 authorization alters, damages or ~~destroys a computer, computer system, computer network,~~  
13 ~~or any part thereof.~~ destroys:

14 (1) A computer, computer system, or computer network; or

15 (2) Any computer software, computer program, or data residing or  
16 existing internal or external to a computer, computer system, or  
17 computer network.

18 (b) ~~A person is guilty of a misdemeanor if he willfully and without authorization~~  
19 ~~alters, damages, or destroys any computer software, program or data residing or existing~~  
20 ~~internal or external to a computer, computer system or computer network.~~

21 (b) This section applies to alteration, damage or destruction effectuated by  
22 introducing, directly or indirectly, a computer program (including a self-replicating or a  
23 self-propagating computer program), into a computer, computer system, or computer  
24 network.

25 **"§ 14-456. Denial of computer services to an authorized user.**

26 (a) Any person who willfully and without authorization denies or causes the  
27 denial of ~~computer system services to an authorized user of such computer system services, is~~  
28 ~~guilty of a misdemeanor.~~ computer, computer system, or computer network services to an  
29 authorized user of the computer, computer system, or computer network services is  
30 guilty of a misdemeanor.

31 (b) This section also applies to denial of services effectuated by introducing,  
32 directly or indirectly, a computer program (including a self-replicating or a self-  
33 propagating computer program), into a computer, computer system, or computer  
34 network.

35 **"§ 14-457. Extortion.**

36 Any person who verbally or by a written or printed communication, maliciously  
37 threatens to commit an act described in G.S. 14-455 with the intent to extort money or  
38 any pecuniary advantage, or with the intent to compel any person to do or refrain from  
39 doing any act against his will, is guilty of a Class H felony."

40 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 1993, and applies to offenses  
41 committed on or after that date.