

N.C. State Alcohol Laws

State Law	Penalty	North Carolina Statute
To possess, attempt to purchase or purchase, sell or give beer, wine, liquor, or mixed beverages to anyone under the age of 21.	Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for a term up to 120 days and/or community service and fines up to \$1,000 (Class 1 misdemeanor)	§188-302 - 188-302.1
A person under 21 years of age who aids and abets to purchase or to attempt to purchase, purchase or to possess; sell or give, alcohol to a person who is under 21 years of age	Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for a term up to 60 days and/or community service and fines (Class 2 misdemeanor)	§188-302 - 188-302.1
A person over 21 years of age who aids and abets to purchase or to attempt to purchase, purchase or to possess; sell or give, alcohol to a person who is under 21 years of age	Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for a term up to 120 days and/or community service and fines up to \$1,000 (Class 1 misdemeanor)	§188-302 -188-302.1
Operating a motor vehicle upon any highway, any street, or any public vehicular area within this State: while under the influence of an impairing substance; after having consumed sufficient alcohol that he has, at any relevant time after the driving, an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more; or with any amount of a Schedule I controlled substance.	1st Offense: Jail - 24 hours; Fine - \$200; License Suspension - 60 days to 1 year; 2d Offense: Jail - 4 days; Fine - varies; License Suspension - 1 to 4 years; 3d Offense: Jail - 14 days to 2 years; Fine - varies; License Suspension - 1 year to permanent	§20-138.1
Operating a motor vehicle on a highway or public vehicular area by a person less than 21 years old while consuming alcohol or at any time while he has remaining in his body any alcohol or controlled substance previously consumed.	Maximum of 20 days in jail and \$200. If driving while impaired offense is also charged then: 1st Offense: Jail - 24 hours; Fine - \$200; License Suspension - 60 days to 1 year; 2d Offense: Jail - 4 days; Fine -varies; License Suspension - 1 to 4 years; 3d Offense: Jail - 14 days to 2 years; Fine - varies; License Suspension - 1 year to permanent	§20-138.1 & 20-138.3
Possessing an alcoholic beverage other than in the unopened manufacturer's original container, or consume an alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of a motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is on a highway or the right-of-way of a highway.	Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for a term up to 60 days and/or community service and fines up to \$1,000 (Class 2 or 3 misdemeanor based on number of offenses). If you are convicted of an impaired driving offense arising from this incident, then impaired driving punishments apply.	§188-301; §188-401; §20-138.7