

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H.B. 447  
Mar 25, 2019  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10243-NB-26

Short Title: Attractive Nuisances. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Zachary and Dixon (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO DEFINE A POSSESSOR'S LIABILITY FOR BODIES OF WATER ON THE  
3 POSSESSOR'S LAND REGARDING CHILD TRESPASSERS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 38B-3 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 38B-3. Exceptions.

7 Notwithstanding G.S. 38B-2, a possessor of land may be subject to liability for physical  
8 injury or death to a trespasser in the following situations:

- 9 (1) Intentional harms. – A possessor may be subject to liability if the trespasser's  
10 bodily injury or death resulted from the possessor's willful or wanton conduct,  
11 or was intentionally caused by the possessor, except that a possessor may use  
12 reasonable force to repel a trespasser who has entered the land or a building  
13 with the intent to commit a crime.
- 14 (2) Harms to trespassing children caused by artificial condition. – A possessor  
15 may be subject to liability for bodily injury or death to a child trespasser  
16 resulting from an artificial condition on the land if all of the following apply:
- 17 a. The possessor knew or had reason to know that children were likely to  
18 trespass at the location of the condition.
- 19 b. The condition is one the possessor knew or reasonably should have  
20 known involved an unreasonable risk of serious bodily injury or death  
21 to such children.
- 22 c. The injured child did not discover the condition or realize the risk  
23 involved in the condition or in coming within the area made dangerous  
24 by it.
- 25 d. The utility to the possessor of maintaining the condition and the burden  
26 of eliminating the danger were slight as compared with the risk to the  
27 child involved.
- 28 e. The possessor failed to exercise reasonable care to eliminate the  
29 danger or otherwise protect the injured child.

30 Notwithstanding sub-subdivisions a. through e. of this subdivision, the  
31 possessor shall not be subject to liability for a condition that is a body of water  
32 on the possessor's land unless the possessor creates or causes to be created a  
33 sandy area for swimmers or makes other improvements that would make the  
34 body of water attractive to a child trespasser. For the purpose of this  
35 subdivision, "body of water" means a pool of water, pond, stream, creek, river,  
36 lake, reservoir, or other body of water having a primary use as a wildlife



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1 habitat, a wildlife conservation area, a wildlife water source, or an irrigation  
2 source for plants or crops, a water supply reservoir for a governmental or  
3 private water system, or a watering place for livestock and farm animals,  
4 including, but not limited to, cows, sheep, horses, mules, donkeys, goats,  
5 llamas, pigs, or fowls of all types.

- 6 (3) Position of peril. – A possessor may be subject to liability for physical injury  
7 or death to a trespasser if the possessor discovered the trespasser in a position  
8 of peril or helplessness on the property and failed to exercise ordinary care not  
9 to injure the trespasser."

10 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2019, and applies to injuries  
11 occurring on or after that date.