

Jim Crow Laws: North Carolina

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Passed 23 Jim Crow laws between 1873 and 1957. Seven of the statutes concerned school segregation, six were related to transportation and four outlawed miscegenation. No anti-segregation laws were passed until 1963. Suggesting the difficulty in determining a person's race, a school segregation law passed in 1903 declared that no child no matter how "remote the strain" of Negro blood could be considered a white child and attend a school for white children. The state continued to pass non-compulsory attendance requirements after the Brown decision in 1956 and 1957 as a means to avoid desegregation.

1873: Miscegenation [Statute]

Prohibited marriages between whites and Negroes or Indians or persons of Negro or Indian descent to third generation.

1875: Education [Constitution]

White and black children shall be taught in separate public schools, "but there shall be no discrimination made in favor of, or to the prejudice of, either race."

1875: Miscegenation [Constitution]

Prohibited forever all marriages between a white person and a Negro or between a white person and a person of Negro descent to third generation inclusive.

1899: Railroads [Statute]

Railroad and steamboat companies to provide separate but equal accommodations for white and black passengers. Did not apply to streetcars. Penalty: A company that failed to enforce this act fined \$100 per day, each day, to be recovered in action brought by any passenger on any train or steamboat who has been provided accommodations with a person of a different race.

1901: Education [Statute]

Clarified how children would be separated in public schools. The education policies followed the code regulating marriages from the 1875 Constitution, which stated that persons of Negro descent to the third generation inclusive were considered "colored."

1903: Education [Statute]

No child with "Negro blood in its veins, however remote the strain, shall attend a school for the white race, and no such child shall be considered a white child."

1907: Streetcars [Statute]

All streetcars shall set aside a portion of the front of each car as necessary for white passengers, and a rear portion of the car for black passengers. Noted that "no contiguous seats on the same bench shall be occupied by the white and colored passengers at the same time unless or until all other seats are occupied." Penalty: Misdemeanor for officer who violates this act, and may be fined or imprisoned. Passengers who violated the law could be fined up to \$50 or imprisoned up to 30 days. Companies were not liable for a mistake in the designation of any passenger to a seat set apart for the other race.

1908: Education [Statute]

Prohibited black and white children from attending the same schools. Descendants of the Croatan Indians to have separate schools also.

1919: Health Care [Statute]

Mandatory that public or private hospitals, sanatoriums, or institutions which admitted colored patients to employ colored nurses to care for inmates of their own race. Law repealed in 1925.

1921: Miscegenation [Statute]

Miscegenation declared a felony.

1925: Public Carriers [Statute]

Seats on all buses to be segregated by race.

1929: Health Care [Statute]

Mental hospitals to be segregated by race.

1931: Education [State Code]

Authorized separate education facilities for the "Cherokee Indians of Robeson County" and the "Indians of Person County," formerly known as "Croatans." Denied the privilege of such schools to all persons of Negro blood to the fourth generation

inclusive.

1931: Public accommodations [State Code]

State library directed to maintain a separate place to accommodate colored patrons.

1933: Prisons [Statute]

Prisons to be segregated by race.

1947: Public accommodations [Statute]

Called for racial restrictions for the burial of the dead at cemeteries.

1950: Public carriers [Statute]

Public carriers to be segregated.

1952: National Guard [Statute]

No black troops to be permitted where white troops available; colored troops to be under control of white officers.

1953: Miscegenation [Statute]

Marriage between white and Negroes or Indians void. Penalty: Infamous crime, four months to ten years imprisonment, fine discretion of court.

1956: Education [Statute]

Local school boards given the option to suspend school operations.

1956: Public accommodations [Statute]

Required all plants and other businesses to maintain separate toilet facilities. Penalty: Misdemeanor.

1957: Education [Statute]

No child forced to attend school with children of a different race.

1957: Health Care [Statute]

Hospitals for the insane to be segregated.

1963: Barred public accommodations segregation [City Ordinance]

Raleigh, N.C. repealed a portion of the city code which required racial segregation in public cemeteries.

1963: Barred residential segregation [City Ordinance]

Repealed a 30-year ordinance in Asheville, N.C., which had barred persons of different races from residing in the same neighborhood.