CHAPTER 13
ARTICLE 1
Miscellaneous Offenses

SECTION 16-13-385. Altering, tampering with or bypassing electric, gas or water meters; penalties.
(A) It is unlawful for an unauthorized person to alter, tamper with, or bypass a meter which has been
installed for the purpose of measuring the use of electricity, gas, or water.
A meter found in a condition which would cause electricity, gas, or water to be diverted from the
recording apparatus of the meter or to cause the meter to inaccurately measure the use of electricity, gas, or
water or the attachment to a meter or distribution wire of any device, mechanism, or wire which would
permit the use of unmetered electricity, gas, or water or would cause a meter to inaccurately measure the
use is prima facie evidence that the person in whose name the meter was installed or the person for whose
benefit electricity, gas, or water was diverted caused the electricity, gas, or water to be diverted from going
through the meter or the meter to inaccurately measure the use of the electricity, gas, or water.
(B) A person who violates the provisions of this section for a:
(1) first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five
hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days;
(2) second offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than ten
thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than three years, or both; and
(3) third or subsequent offense, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than
fifteen thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.