

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

SESSION LAW 2005-235  
SENATE BILL 972

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF BREAKING OR ENTERING  
A BUILDING THAT IS A PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 14 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 14-54.1. Breaking or entering a building that is a place of religious worship.**

(a) Any person who wrongfully breaks or enters any building that is a place of religious worship with intent to commit any felony or larceny therein is guilty of a Class G felony.

(b) As used in this section, a 'building that is a place of religious worship' shall be construed to include any church, chapel, meetinghouse, synagogue, temple, longhouse, or mosque, or other building that is regularly used, and clearly identifiable, as a place for religious worship."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2005, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2005.

s/ Marc Basnight  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved 2:01 p.m. this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005