

April 26, 2001

H 1421. INNOCENCE PROTECTION ACT. TO AMEND THE LAW PROVIDING COMPENSATION TO A PERSON FOR A WRONGFUL CONVICTION AND TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS TO REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE'S CAPITAL PUNISHMENT LAWS. Amends GS 148-82 to expand the circumstances under which a person convicted of a felony and imprisoned may present a claim against the state for pecuniary loss. Allows petition within five years of date (1) conviction is reversed or set aside on the ground that the person was not guilty of the offense or (2) person is found not guilty of offense in a new trial or rehearing, as well as when Governor has granted a pardon of innocence. Amends GS 148-84 (action on petition by Industrial Comm'n) accordingly. Raises maximum compensation from \$150,000 to \$500,000. Adds new requirement that Div'n of Criminal Statistics annually prepare and transmit to General Assembly and Governor a report concerning the administration of capital punishment laws by the State government. Act's limit on maximum compensation and provisions on report are identical to those in S 164, introduced 2/19/01.

Intro. by Blue, Hackney, Nesbitt.

Ref. to Rules	GS 114, 148
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