

April 3, 2003

S 736. EXPAND SCOPE OF HATE CRIMES. *TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD BY EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE HATE CRIME LAWS AND INCREASING THE CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR COMMITTING A HATE CRIME.* Amends GS 14-3(c) to increase punishment for misdemeanors committed because of victim's *real or perceived* race, color, religion, nationality, *gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, age,* or country of origin (italicized language added). Adds new GS 14-3(d) to increase punishment for felonies committed because of victim's real or perceived race, color, religion, nationality, gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or country of origin. Amends GS 14-401.14(a) and GS 15A-1340.16(d)(17) to make them applicable to specified criminal acts based on victim's *real or perceived* race, color, religion, nationality, *gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, age,* or country of origin (italicized language added). Effective Dec. 1, 2003; applies to offenses committed on or after effective date.

Intro. by Lucas.

Ref. to	GS 14
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