

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

H

2

HOUSE BILL 1120  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/4/05

Short Title: Strengthen Neighborhood Watch Programs.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF  
3 NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH PROGRAMS AND TO ESTABLISH A  
4 CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR HARASSMENT OF A MEMBER OF A  
5 NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH PROGRAM.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Article 10 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended  
8 by adding a new section to read:

9 **"§ 153A-212.2. Neighborhood crime watch programs.**

10 A county may establish neighborhood crime watch programs within the county to  
11 encourage residents and business owners to promote citizen involvement in securing  
12 homes, businesses, and personal property against criminal activity and to report  
13 suspicious activities to law enforcement officials."

14 **SECTION 2.** Article 13 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended  
15 by adding a new section to read:

16 **"§ 160A-289.2. Neighborhood crime watch programs.**

17 A city may establish neighborhood crime watch programs within the city to  
18 encourage residents and business owners to promote citizen involvement in securing  
19 homes, businesses, and personal property against criminal activity and to report  
20 suspicious activities to law enforcement officials."

21 **SECTION 3.** Article 30 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by  
22 adding a new section to read:

23 **"§ 14-226.2. Harassment of participant in neighborhood crime watch program.**

24 Any person who willfully harasses, threatens, or intimidates an identifiable member  
25 or a resident in the same household as the member of a neighborhood crime watch  
26 program for the purpose of intimidating or retaliating against that person for the person's  
27 participation in a neighborhood crime watch program is guilty of a Class 1  
28 misdeemeanor including a fine of at least three hundred dollars (\$300.00). It is a  
29 violation of this section for a person to harass an identifiable member or a resident in the

1 same household as the member of a neighborhood crime watch program while that  
2 member is traveling to or from a neighborhood crime watch meeting, actively  
3 participating in a neighborhood crime watch program activity, or actively participating  
4 in an ongoing criminal investigation."

5           **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this act becomes effective December 1, 2005. The  
6 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.