

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1988

Short Title: Unlawful to Burn Cross/Hang Noose. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Berger of Franklin; Albertson, Bingham, Boseman, Cowell, Dalton, Dannelly, Dorsett, East, Foriest, Graham, Hartsell, Hoyle, Jenkins, Jones, Kinnaird, Malone, McKissick, Nesbitt, Purcell, Shaw, Snow, Swindell, and Weinstein.

Referred to: Judiciary II (Criminal).

May 28, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO BURN A CROSS OR HANG A NOOSE FOR THE INTENT OF INTIMIDATING ANOTHER PERSON BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF RECENT CROSS BURNINGS AND NOOSE HANGINGS ACROSS THE STATE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFICATION TO THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE STATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

**"§ 14-401.14A. Unlawful to burn a cross or hang a noose with the intent to intimidate.**

If a person shall burn a cross or hang a noose with the intent to intimidate another because of race, color, religion, nationality, or country of origin, he shall be guilty of a Class H felony."

**SECTION 2.** The Legislative Research Commission shall study the impact of recent cross burnings and noose hangings within the State and determine if any modifications should be made to existing statutes to lawfully deter this type of conduct. Of funds appropriated to the General Assembly for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, there shall be allocated the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to fund this study. The Legislative Research Commission shall report its findings and make recommendations for legislation to the 2009 Session of the General Assembly.

**SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2008, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.