

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 451

Short Title: Revise Restitution Damage Awards. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Goolsby (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 27, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REVISE THE MANNER IN WHICH RESTITUTION DAMAGES ARE
3 CALCULATED SO THAT VICTIMS IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES MAY RECEIVE
4 FULL COMPENSATION FOR THEIR DAMAGES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 15A-1340.34 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 15A-1340.34. Restitution generally.**

8 (a) When sentencing a defendant convicted of a criminal offense, the court shall
9 determine whether the defendant shall be ordered to make restitution to any victim of the
10 offense in question. For purposes of this Article, the term "victim" means a person directly and
11 proximately harmed as a result of the defendant's commission of the criminal ~~offense.~~ offense
12 or a third-party payor, including an insurer, which has made payment to the victim to
13 compensate the victim for any costs or losses described in G.S. 15A-1340.35.

14 (b) If the defendant is being sentenced for an offense for which the victim is entitled to
15 restitution under Article 46 of this Chapter, the court shall, in addition to any penalty
16 authorized by law, require that the defendant make restitution ~~to the victim or the victim's estate~~
17 ~~for any injuries or damages arising directly and proximately out of the offense committed by~~
18 ~~the defendant.~~ for any injuries or damages arising directly and proximately out of the offense
19 committed by the defendant to the victim, the victim's estate, or a third-party payor, including
20 an insurer, that has made payment to the victim or the victim's estate to compensate the victim
21 for such injuries or damages. If the defendant is placed on probation or post-release
22 supervision, any restitution ordered under this subsection shall be a condition of probation as
23 provided in G.S. 15A-1343(d) or a condition of post-release supervision as provided in
24 G.S. 148-57.1.

25 (c) When subsection (b) of this section does not apply, the court may, in addition to any
26 other penalty authorized by law, require that the defendant make restitution to the victim or the
27 victim's estate for any injuries or damages arising directly and proximately out of the offense
28 committed by the defendant."

29 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 15A-1340.35 reads as rewritten:

30 **"§ 15A-1340.35. Basis for restitution.**

31 (a) In determining the amount of restitution, the court shall consider the following:

32 (1) In the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury to a victim:

33 a. The cost of necessary medical and related professional services and
34 devices or equipment relating to physical, psychiatric, and
35 psychological care required by the ~~victim;~~ victim.



- 1 b. The cost of necessary physical and occupational therapy and
2 rehabilitation required by the ~~victim~~; and victim.
- 3 c. Income lost by the victim as a result of the offense.
- 4 d. Pain and suffering of the victim as a result of the offense.
- 5 (2) In the case of an offense resulting in the damage, loss, or destruction of
6 property of a victim of the offense:
- 7 a. Return of the property to the owner of the property or someone
8 designated by the owner; or
- 9 b. If return of the property under sub-subdivision (2)a. of this
10 subsection is impossible, impracticable, or inadequate:
- 11 1. The value of the property on the date of the damage, loss, or
12 destruction; or
- 13 2. The value of the property on the date of sentencing, less the
14 value of any part of the property that is returned.
- 15 (3) Any measure of restitution specifically provided by law for the offense
16 committed by the defendant.
- 17 (4) In the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury that results in the death of
18 the victim, the cost of the victim's necessary funeral and related services, in
19 addition to the items set out in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this
20 subsection.
- 21 (b) The court may require that the victim or the victim's estate provide admissible
22 evidence that documents the costs claimed by the victim or the victim's estate under this
23 section. Any such documentation shall be shared with the defendant before the sentencing
24 hearing.
- 25 (c) Costs awarded under sub-subdivision (a)(1)d. of this section shall be limited to five
26 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for each victim for all offenses occurring
27 contemporaneously."
- 28 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2013, and applies to any order
29 of restitution issued on or after that date.