

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H

1

HOUSE BILL 497

Short Title: Ban on Gay & Trans Panic Defense. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dahle and Alston (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 26, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT A DEFENSE TO HOMICIDE OR ASSAULT BASED ON THE  
DISCOVERY OF, PERCEPTION OF, OR BELIEF ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON'S SEX,  
GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 6 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
a new section to read:

**"§ 14-18.3. Prohibited defense.**

(a) Prohibition. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the discovery of, perception of, or belief about another person's actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation, whether or not accurate, is not a defense to a prosecution under this Article and is not provocation negating malice as an element of murder.

(b) Construction. – Nothing in this section shall be construed as precluding the admission of evidence of a victim's or witness's conduct, behavior, or statements that is relevant and otherwise admissible."

**SECTION 2.** Article 8 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
a new section to read:

**"§ 14-34.11. Prohibited defense.**

(a) Prohibition. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the discovery of, perception of, or belief about another person's actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation, whether or not accurate, is not a defense to a prosecution under this Article.

(b) Construction. – Nothing in this section shall be construed as precluding the admission of evidence of a victim's or witness's conduct, behavior, or statements that is relevant and otherwise admissible."

**SECTION 3.** Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this  
act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act  
remain applicable to those prosecutions.

**SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses  
committed on or after that date.

