

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 95

Short Title: Threaten Elected Official/Increase Punishment. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Kidwell, Moss, Adams, and Wheatley (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: State and Local Government, if favorable, Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 12, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT IMPOSED FOR A THREAT AGAINST A LOCAL ELECTED OFFICER AND TO REQUIRE THE EXECUTION OF A SECURED APPEARANCE BOND FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT FOR ANY PERSON CHARGED WITH MAKING A THREAT AGAINST AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER, COURT OFFICER, LOCAL ELECTED OFFICER, OR ELECTION OFFICER.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 5A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:
"Article 5A.

"Endangering Executive, Legislative, ~~and Court~~ Court, and Local Elected Officers.

...
"**§ 14-16.7. Threats against executive, legislative, ~~or court~~ court, or local elected officers.**

(a) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes any threat to inflict serious bodily injury upon or to kill any legislative officer, executive officer, ~~or court officer,~~ or local elected officer, or who knowingly and willfully makes any threat to inflict serious bodily injury upon or kill any other person as retaliation against any legislative officer, executive officer, ~~or court officer,~~ or local elected officer because of the exercise of that officer's duties, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished as a Class I felon.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully deposits for conveyance in the mail any letter, writing, or other document containing a threat to commit an offense described in subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished as a Class I felon.

"**§ 14-16.8. No requirement of receipt of the threat.**

In prosecutions under G.S. 14-16.7 of this Article it shall not be necessary to prove that any legislative officer, executive officer, ~~or court officer,~~ or local elected officer actually received the threatening communication or actually believed the threat.

...
"**§ 14-16.10. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) Court officer. – Magistrate, clerk of superior court, acting clerk, assistant or deputy clerk, judge, or justice of the General Court of Justice; district attorney, assistant district attorney, or any other attorney designated by the district attorney to act for the State or on behalf of the district attorney; public defender or assistant defender; court reporter; juvenile court counselor as defined in G.S. 7B-1501(18a); any attorney or other individual employed by,



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1 contracted by, or acting on behalf of a county department of social services,
2 as defined in G.S. 108A-24; any attorney or other individual appointed
3 pursuant to G.S. 7B-601 or G.S. 7B-1108 or employed by the Guardian ad
4 Litem Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

5 (2) Executive officer. – A person named in G.S. 147-3(c).

6 (3) Legislative officer. – A person named in G.S. 147-2(1), (2), or (3).

7 (4) Local elected officer. – An elected officer of a political subdivision of this
8 State."

9 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163-275(11) reads as rewritten:

10 "(11) For any person, by threats, menaces or in any other manner, to intimidate or
11 attempt to intimidate any chief judge, judge of election or other election
12 officer in the discharge ~~of~~ of, or because of, duties in the registration of voters
13 or in conducting any primary or election."

14 **SECTION 3.** Article 26 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by
15 adding a new section to read:

16 "**§ 15A-534.9. Threats against public officers; bail.**

17 In all cases in which the defendant is charged with a violation of G.S. 14-16.7 or
18 G.S. 163-275(11), and in addition to any other applicable provisions of G.S. 15A-534, the
19 judicial official who determines the conditions of pretrial release shall require the defendant to
20 execute a secured appearance bond in an amount no less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)."

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