

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1447  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/7/09  
Third Edition Engrossed 5/13/09

Short Title: Crime Stoppers Tips Are Confidential.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 13, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE IDENTITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES A  
3 TIP FOR AN UNSOLVED CASE THROUGH CRIME STOPPERS OR SIMILAR  
4 ORGANIZATIONS IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD, TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
5 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY A CRIME STOPPERS ORGANIZATION IS NOT  
6 SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY OR ADMISSIBLE IN A COURT PROCEEDING, AND TO  
7 PROVIDE THAT A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS A DUTY TO MAINTAIN  
8 THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF A CRIME STOPPERS TIP.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
11 Article to read:

12 "Article 47.

13 "Local Crime Stoppers Programs.

14 **§ 15A-850. Local Crime Stoppers organizations; confidentiality.**

15 (a) Definition. – As used in this section, a "Crime Stoppers" organization or other  
16 similarly named organization means a private, nonprofit North Carolina corporation governed  
17 by a civilian volunteer board of directors that is operated on a local or statewide level that (i)  
18 offers anonymity to persons providing information to the organization, (ii) accepts and expends  
19 donations for cash rewards to persons who report to the organization information about alleged  
20 criminal activity and that the organization forwards to the appropriate law enforcement agency,  
21 and (iii) is established as a cooperative alliance among the news media, the community, and  
22 law enforcement officials.

23 (b) Prohibitions on Use of Crime Stoppers Tips.

24 (1) Evidence of a communication, and any information contained within a  
25 communication, from an anonymous source to a Crime Stoppers  
26 organization shall not be:

27 a. Relied upon, or considered by, a judicial official in determining  
28 whether probable cause exists to issue either an arrest or search  
29 warrant.

30 b. Admissible or subject to discovery in any court proceeding.

31 (2) Crime Stoppers tips may only be used to assist a law enforcement agency in  
32 directing its investigation of alleged criminal activity.

33 (c) Identity of Crime Stoppers Informant Is Not Public Record; Duty of Law  
34 Enforcement Agency to Maintain Confidentiality. – The identity of any individual providing  
35 information about a crime or criminal activity to a Crime Stoppers organization under a



1 promise of anonymity is not a public record as defined by G.S. 132-1 and shall not be  
2 disclosed. A law enforcement agency receiving information concerning alleged criminal  
3 activity from a Crime Stoppers organization shall maintain confidentiality pursuant to this  
4 section and pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4(h)."

5 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2009.