

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS25194-LH-117 (03/10)

Short Title: Unlawful to Assist Another to Commit Suicide.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Sanderson (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE IT A FELONY FOR A PERSON, FOR REMUNERATION, TO ASSIST  
3 ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL TO COMMIT SUICIDE AND TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL  
4 TO MANUFACTURE, SELL, DISTRIBUTE, OR POSSESS IN THIS STATE A  
5 EUTHANASIA DEVICE DESIGNED TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL TO COMMIT  
6 SUICIDE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the  
9 following new sections to read:

10 **"§ 14-17.2. Assisted suicide.**

11 (a) Definition. – As used in this section, "suicide" means the intentional and willful  
12 termination of one's own life.

13 (b) Unlawful to Assist Suicide. – Any person who, for remuneration, intentionally  
14 assists another individual to commit suicide is guilty of a Class D felony.

15 (c) Withholding or Withdrawing Medical Treatment. – This section does not apply to  
16 withholding or withdrawing medical treatment. It is not unlawful to administer, prescribe, or  
17 dispense medications or procedures, by or at the direction of a licensed health care professional,  
18 for the purpose of alleviating another person's pain or discomfort, even if the medication or  
19 procedure may increase the risk of death as long as the medication or procedure is not also  
20 intentionally administered, prescribed, or dispensed for the purpose of causing death or the  
21 purpose of assisting in causing death for any reason.

22 **"§ 14-17.3. Unlawful to manufacture, sell, distribute, or possess euthanasia device.**

23 (a) Unlawful to manufacture, sell, distribute, or possess euthanasia device. – It is  
24 unlawful to manufacture, sell, distribute, or possess within this State any euthanasia device  
25 designed to assist an individual to commit suicide. Some examples of euthanasia devices  
26 prohibited under this section are the products known as "thanatron," "mercitron," "deliverance  
27 machine," and "exit's euthanasia device."

28 (b) Penalty. – A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor."

29 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to  
30 offenses committed on or after that date.

