

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL DRS45112-MR-62A\*

Short Title: Conner's Law.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Britt and McInnis (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM ON A  
3 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, PROBATION OFFICER, OR PAROLE OFFICER  
4 AND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL DEATH BENEFIT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY  
5 EMPLOYEES WHO ARE MURDERED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 14-34.5(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) Any person who commits an assault with a firearm upon a law enforcement officer,  
9 probation officer, or parole officer while the officer is in the performance of his or her duties is  
10 guilty of a Class ~~E~~-D felony."

11 **SECTION 1.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2019, and applies to  
12 offenses committed on or after that date. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective  
13 date of this section are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable  
14 but for this section remain applicable to those prosecutions.

15 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 143-166.2 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

16 "(7a) Murdered in the line of duty. – The death of a covered person who was killed  
17 in the line of duty in a manner reasonably determined by the Industrial  
18 Commission to be directly caused by the intentional harmful act of another  
19 person."

20 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 143-166.3 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 "(e) When any covered person is murdered in the line of duty, in addition to the award  
22 under subsection (a) of this section, the Industrial Commission shall award a death benefit in the  
23 amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be paid to one of the following:

24 (1) The spouse of the covered person if there is a surviving spouse.

25 (2) If there is no surviving spouse, then payments shall be made to any surviving  
26 dependent child of the covered person. If there is more than one surviving  
27 dependent child, then the payment shall be made to and equally divided among  
28 all surviving dependent children.

29 (3) If there is no surviving spouse and no surviving dependent child or children,  
30 then payments shall be made to any surviving dependent parent of the covered  
31 person. If there is more than one surviving dependent parent, then the  
32 payments shall be made to and equally divided between the surviving  
33 dependent parents of the covered person.

34 (4) If there is no surviving spouse, surviving dependent child, or surviving parent,  
35 then the payment shall be made to the estate of the deceased covered person."



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1           **SECTION 2.(c)** This section becomes effective retroactively to July 1, 2017, and  
2 shall apply to qualifying deaths occurring on or after that date.  
3           **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
4 law.