

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40000-ML-7A

Short Title: Threaten Elected Official/Increase Punishment.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Kidwell.

Referred to:

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, contracted by, or acting on behalf of a county department of social services, as defined in G.S. 108A-24; any attorney or other individual appointed



1 pursuant to G.S. 7B-601 or G.S. 7B-1108 or employed by the Guardian ad
2 Litem Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 "**§ 15A-534.9. Threats against public officers; bail.**

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

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