

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE DRH10844-LH-187A (03/23)

Short Title: Crime Stoppers Tips Are Confidential.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Wiley.

Referred to:

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 AND IS NOT ADMISSIBLE AS
5 EVIDENCE IN A COURT PROCEEDING, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A LAW
6 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS A DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY
7 OF A CRIME STOPPERS' TIP.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

11 "Article 47.

12 "Local Crime Stoppers Programs.

13 **"§ 15A-850. Local "Crime Stoppers" organizations; confidentiality.**

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

22 (b) Inadmissibility in Court Proceeding. – The identity of a person submitting a report
23 of an alleged criminal act to a "Crime Stoppers" organization is not admissible in a court
24 proceeding, regardless of the means by which a communication is received.

25 (c) Identity of "Crime Stoppers" Informant Is Not Public Record; Duty of Law
26 Enforcement Agency to Maintain Confidentiality. – The identity of any individual providing
27 information about a crime or criminal activity to a "Crime Stoppers" organization under a
28 promise of anonymity is not a public record as defined by G.S. 132-1 and shall not be
29 disclosed. A law enforcement agency receiving information concerning alleged criminal
30 activity from a "Crime Stoppers" organization shall maintain confidentiality pursuant to this
31 section and pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4(h)."

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



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