

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 283  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/13/19

Short Title: Conner's Law.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 7, 2019

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; TO  
4 INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AGAINST  
5 CERTAIN EMERGENCY PERSONNEL; AND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL  
6 DEATH BENEFIT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE MURDERED IN  
7 THE LINE OF DUTY.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 14-34.6 reads as rewritten:

14 "**§ 14-34.6. Assault or affray on a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, medical  
15 responder, and hospital personnel.**

16 (a) A person is guilty of a Class I felony if the person commits an assault or affray causing  
17 physical injury on any of the following persons who are discharging or attempting to discharge  
18 their official duties:

- 19 (1) An emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider.
- 20 (2) A medical responder.
- 21 (3) Hospital personnel and licensed healthcare providers who are providing or  
22 attempting to provide health care services to a ~~patient in a hospital~~ patient.
- 23 (4) Repealed by Session Laws 2011-356, s. 2, effective December 1, 2011, and  
24 applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.
- 25 (5) A firefighter.
- 26 (6) Hospital security personnel.

27 (b) Unless a person's conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing  
28 greater punishment, a person is guilty of a ~~Class H~~ Class G felony if the person violates  
29 subsection (a) of this section and (i) inflicts serious bodily injury or (ii) uses a deadly weapon  
30 other than a firearm.

31 (c) Unless a person's conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing  
32 greater punishment, a person is guilty of a ~~Class F~~ Class E felony if the person violates subsection  
33 (a) of this section and uses a firearm."

34 **SECTION 1.(c)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2019, and applies to  
35 offenses committed on or after that date. Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective



1 date of this section are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable  
2 but for this section remain applicable to those prosecutions.

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

4 "(7a) Murdered in the line of duty. – The death of a covered person who was killed  
5 in the line of duty in a manner reasonably determined by the Industrial  
6 Commission to be directly caused by the intentional harmful act of another  
7 person."

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

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

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

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

17 (3) If there is no surviving spouse and no surviving dependent child or children,  
18 then payments shall be made to any surviving dependent parent of the covered  
19 person. If there is more than one surviving dependent parent, then the  
20 payments shall be made to and equally divided between the surviving  
21 dependent parents of the covered person.

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

25 **SECTION 2.(c)** This section becomes effective retroactively to July 1, 2017, and  
26 shall apply to qualifying deaths occurring on or after that date.

27 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
28 law.