



HOUSE BILL 217: Domestic Violence Fatality Review in Buncombe.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary IV	Date:	April 19, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. B. Turner, Ager, Fisher	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw Committee Counsel, Josue Jimenez, Legal Extern
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *HB 217 would authorize Buncombe County to have a Domestic Violence Review Team.*

CURRENT LAW: S.L. 2009-52, as amended by S.L. 2013-70, authorizes Alamance, Mecklenburg, and Pitt Counties to establish a multidisciplinary Domestic Violence Fatality Prevention and Protection Review Team. The Team's purpose is to identify and review domestic violence-related deaths, and facilitate communication amongst the various agencies and organizations involved in domestic violence cases, with the goal of preventing future fatalities. The Review Team consists of a lead agency, designated by the county commissioners, that has experience working with victims of domestic violence and representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community that provide services to victims or families of domestic violence. Members of the Review Team include representatives from law enforcement, district attorneys, county social services and healthcare departments, schools, and survivors of domestic violence, among others.

Review Teams report every three years to the local board of county commissioners, the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, and the Governor's Crime Commission on the Team's findings and activities.

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 217 would authorize Buncombe County to establish a Domestic Violence Review Team.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 217 would become effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: According to a Violent Death Report from the NC Public Health and Human Services Department, from 2005-2014, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was a contributing factor in 60.7% of female homicides in Buncombe County. IPV was a contributing factor for 6.9% of male homicides for the same time period. An North Carolina Department of Justice report notes that in 2013, Buncombe County tied for second as the North Carolina county with the highest amount of domestic violence related homicides.

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