



HOUSE BILL 249: Economic Terrorism.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: House Judiciary II	Date: April 25, 2017
Introduced by: Reps. Torbett, Blust, Burr	Prepared by: Susan Sitze
Analysis of: First Edition	Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 249 would do the following:*

- *Create the criminal offense of economic terrorism.*
- *Establish civil liability for economic terrorism.*
- *Create a duty for a responsible public official to take action to clear traffic obstructions resulting from unlawful activities.*
- *Increase criminal penalties for obstructing traffic while participating in unlawful activities.*
- *Provide civil liability for the costs of responding to traffic obstructions and certain other unlawful activities.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 14-288.2 defines a riot as "a public disturbance involving an assemblage of three or more persons which by disorderly and violent conduct, or the imminent threat of disorderly and violent conduct, results in injury or damage to persons or property or creates a clear and present danger of injury or damage to persons or property."

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would create a new Class H felony for "economic terrorism" if a person commits a crime that impedes or disrupts the regular course of business and results in more than \$1,000 damages, if the person has the intent to either (i) intimidate the civilian population at large, or an identifiable group of the civilian population, or (ii) influence, through intimidation, the conduct or activities of the government of the United States, a state, or any unit of local government.

Section 2 would provide civil liability for committing an act in violation of the economic terrorism offense created in Section 1 of the bill.

Section 3 would provide that a person convicted of participation in an unlawful assembly, riot, or obstructing traffic is civilly liable to a State agency or other political subdivision of the State for public safety costs incurred in responding to the incident.

Section 4 would amend G.S. 14-159.13, Second degree trespass, to create a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person not one of the listed exceptions to remain at the place of a riot or unlawful assembly after having been lawfully warned to disperse.

Section 5 would provide that in the event of a mass traffic obstruction, depending on the location of the obstruction, either the mayor or the sheriff would have a duty to dispatch available law enforcement officer with directions to clear the roads of the persons unlawfully obstructing vehicular traffic. Pursuant to G.S. 20-176, violation of the duty would be an infraction.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

House Bill 249

Page 2

Section 6 would provide that any person who stands, sits, or lies on the highway or street in way that impedes the regular flow of traffic while participating in a riot or other unlawful assembly would be guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective December 1, 2017, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.