



HOUSE BILL 270: Revise Law on the Death Penalty.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Willis, Pyrtle, Miller, Ward	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 270 would revise the methods of execution available for a person convicted of a criminal offense and sentenced to death.*

CURRENT LAW:

North Carolina law authorizes the death penalty for first degree murder.

G.S. 15-187 states that death by electrocution and by lethal gas are abolished as methods of execution, and provides that lethal injection is the method of execution in this State.

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 270 would do the following:

- Repeal G.S. 15-187.
- Provide that the default method of execution is electrocution.
- Allow a person sentenced to death to choose a firing squad or lethal injection as an alternate method of execution, if those methods are available the time of election.
- Provide that the person must choose an alternate method of execution in writing at least 14 days before the execution date, or waive the right of election.
- Require an election to be renewed for each execution date if a previous execution date has passed for any reason.
- Require the Department of Adult Correction to certify the available methods of execution upon receipt of the notice of execution.
- Provide that these provisions apply to any person convicted and sentenced to death prior to the effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

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