



HOUSE BILL 95: Threaten Elected Official/Increase Punishment.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	February 25, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Kidwell, Moss, Adams, Wheatley	Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 95 would provide that the following would be Class I felonies:*

- *Threats to kill or inflict serious injury against local elected officers (currently, applies only to executive, legislative, and court officers).*
- *Threats to intimidate or attempts to intimidate any chief judge, judge of election or other election officer because of duties in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election.*

The bill also would provide that in all cases in which a defendant is charged under these statutes, the judicial officer who determines the conditions of pretrial release must require the defendant to execute a secured appearance bond of not less than \$50,000. The act would become effective December 1, 2025, and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

CURRENT LAW:

Communicating Threats:

A person is guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor if he or she does all of the following:

- Willfully threatens to physically injure the person or that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent or willfully threatens to damage the property of another.
- The threat is communicated to the other person, orally, in writing, or by any other means.
- The threat is made in a manner and under circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the threat is likely to be carried out.
- The person threatened believes that the threat will be carried out. G.S. 14-277.1.

Threats to Kill or Inflict Serious Injury Against Executive, Legislative, or Court Officers

A person who does any of the following is guilty of a Class I felony:

- Knowingly and willfully makes any threat to inflict serious bodily injury upon or to kill any legislative officer, executive officer, or court officer.
- Knowingly and willfully makes any threat to inflict serious bodily injury upon or kill any other person as retaliation against any legislative officer, executive officer, or court officer because of the exercise of that officer's duties.

Kara McCraw
Director



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- Knowingly and willfully deposits for conveyance in the mail any letter, writing, or other document containing a threat to commit one of these offenses. G.S. 14-16.7.

It is not necessary to prove that any legislative officer, executive officer, or court officer received the communication or believed the threat. G.S. 14-16.8. These provisions apply to a person who has been elected to an office covered by these statutes but has not taken the oath of office yet. G.S. 14-16.9. These provisions do not apply to local elected officials.

Threats Against Election Officers in the Discharge of Duties

It is a Class I felony for any person by threats, menaces or in any other manner, to intimidate or attempt to intimidate any chief judge, judge of election or other election officer in the discharge of duties in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election. G.S. 163-275(11).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would amend G.S. 14-16.7 to provide that threats to kill or inflict serious injury against local elected officers would be a Class I felony.

Section 2 would amend G.S. 163-275(11) to provide that the statute would apply to threats to intimidate or attempts to intimidate any chief judge, judge of election or other election officer because of duties in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election.

Section 3 would provide that in all cases in which a defendant is charged under G.S. 14-6.7 or G.S. 163-275(11), the judicial officer who determines the conditions of pretrial release must require the defendant to execute a secured appearance bond of not less than \$50,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective December 1, 2025, and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.