March 4, 1999

H 272. CHILD CUSTODY VIOLATION/MISDEMEANOR. TO MAKE THE IN-STATE VIOLATION OF A CHILD CUSTODY ORDER A MISDEMEANOR. Adds new GS 14-320.2 to provide that when a federal or state court has awarded custody of child under 16, it is unlawful to intentionally violate court order by taking or transporting the child from any point within state to any other point within state or to keep child in violation of court order within limits of state. Violation is Class 1 misdemeanor unless conduct prohibited by section is prohibited by other law providing for greater punishment. Provides that keeping or transporting child in violation of court order for a period in excess of 72 hours is prima facie evidence that defendant intended to violate order at time of taking. Effective for offenses committed on or after Dec. 1, 1999.

Intro. by Thomas.

Ref. to Judiciary IV

**GS 14**