

April 1, 1999

**H 884. MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL ACT. TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD BY EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE HATE CRIME LAWS AND INCREASING THE CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR COMMITTING A HATE CRIME.** Expands coverage of hate crimes statutes, GS 14-3(c) and 14-401.14, to include offenses committed because of the victim's gender, sexual orientation, or disability. If felony is committed because of victim's race, color, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or country of origin, it will be punished at one sentencing level higher than that authorized by the offender's prior record level. Adds gender, sexual orientation, and disability to the list of aggravating factors under GS 15A-1340.16(d)(17). Effective Dec. 1, 1999; applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

**Intro. by Luebke and Insko.**

Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 14, 15A

April 21, 1999

**H 884. MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL ACT.** Intro. 4/1/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends GS 14-3(c) to add age to the list of factors that triggers application of the act, and adds to both GS 14-3(c) and GS 14-401.14 requirement that the offense must arise out of the offender's generalized hatred of that category of persons. Adds to GS 15A-1340.16(d)(17) (list of aggravating factors) that the defendant was not charged with an offense under GS 14-401.14, and the punishment has not already been enhanced by GS 14-3(c).