**S 252. CHILD ABUSE PENALTY.** *TO INCREASE THE CRIMINAL PENALTY IN CERTAIN CASES OF CHILD ABUSE.* Amends GS 14-318.4 to make it a Class C felony when parent or other person providing care to or supervision of a child less than 16 intentionally inflicts extreme debilitating injury upon child or intentionally assaults child with result of extreme debilitating injury to child. Defines extreme debilitating injury as one that creates substantial risk of death, or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, permanent or protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ or any mental or emotional function, or that results in prolonged hospitalization. Effective for offense committed on or after December 1, 1999.

Intro. by Horton.

Ref. to Judiciary II

**GS 14**