

April 18, 2007

H 1631. SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT. Filed 4/18/07. *TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER BY EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE ETHNIC INTIMIDATION ACT AND INCREASING THE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR COMMITTING AN ACT OF ETHNIC INTIMIDATION.*

Amends GS 14-3 to specify that when a misdemeanor is committed because of a victim's sexual orientation, gender, age and disability, it is elevated to a Class 1 misdemeanor if the offense would otherwise be a Class 2 or 3 misdemeanor, and to a Class I felony if it would be otherwise be a Class 1 or A1 misdemeanor. Specifies that if the crime is based on a person's perceived covered characteristic, it is covered by the same rules. Makes similar amendment to GS 14-401.14 (ethnic intimidation) to expand the categories of covered persons, and makes similar changes to GS 15A-1340.16(d)(17) (the structured sentencing aggravating factor that deals with a victim's characteristics such as ethnicity, race or religion). Effective December 1, 2007, for offenses committed on and after that date.

Intro. by Harrison.

GS 14, 15A