

April 9, 2009

H 1447. CRIME STOPPERS TIPS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. Filed 4/9/09. *TO PROVIDE THAT THE IDENTITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES A TIP FOR AN UNSOLVED CASE THROUGH CRIME STOPPERS OR SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD AND IS NOT ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN A COURT PROCEEDING, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS A DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF A CRIME STOPPERS' TIP.*

Enacts new GS 15A-850 to make inadmissible in a court proceeding the name of a person reporting an alleged criminal act to a "Crime Stoppers" organization, regardless of the means by which such communication is received. Clarifies that the identity of an informant giving information under a promise of anonymity is not a public record as defined by GS 132-1, and requires a law enforcement agency receiving information from a "Crime Stoppers" organization to maintain confidentiality pursuant to this section and pursuant to GS 132-1.4. Defines a "Crime Stoppers" organization as a nonprofit North Carolina corporation governed by a civilian volunteer board of directors that is operated on a local or statewide level that (1) offers anonymity to persons providing information to the organization, (2) accepts donations for and offers cash rewards to persons who make reports to the organization about alleged criminal activity and that the organization forwards to an appropriate law enforcement agency, and (3) is established as a cooperative alliance between the news media, the community, and law enforcement officials. Effective December 1, 2009.

Intro. by Wiley.

GS 15A

May 7, 2009

H 1447. CRIME STOPPERS TIPS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. Filed 4/9/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends proposed new GS 15A-580(b) to provide that evidence of a communication or any information contained therein between a person submitting a report of an alleged criminal act to a Crime Stoppers organization and the person who accepted the report on behalf of the organization is not subject to discovery or admissible in any court proceeding, regardless of the means by which a communication is received (the 1st edition only made inadmissible the identity of the person submitting a report). Makes technical changes. Makes a conforming change to the title.

May 13, 2009

H 1447. CRIME STOPPERS TIPS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. Filed 4/9/09. House amendment makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Rewrites portion of original bill dealing with confidentiality of crimes stoppers tips to provide that evidence and substance of communication may not be relied on by judicial official in determining probable cause, or be admissible as evidence or subject to discovery in any criminal proceeding. Specifies that tips may only be used to direct law enforcement's investigation efforts.