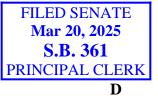
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2025** 



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## SENATE BILL DRS45202-MLa-66

Short Title:	Protecting First Responders Act.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Alexander, Britt, and Burgin (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT OR
3	AFFRAY AGAINST CERTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND TO CRIMINALIZE
4	EXPOSING CERTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO FENTANYL OR OTHER
5	HARMFUL DRUG OR CHEMICAL AGENTS AND TO APPROPRIATE
6	NONRECURRING FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
7	SERVICES TO DISTRIBUTE AS GRANTS TO USE FOR EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT
8	CERTAIN FIRST RESPONDERS.
9	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
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11	PART I. TITLE
12	<b>SECTION 1.</b> This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Protecting First
13	Responders Act" or the "PROFR Act."
14	•
15	PART II. CRIMINALIZE EXPOSING CERTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO
16	FENTANYL OR OTHER HARMFUL DRUG OR CHEMICAL AGENTS
17	<b>SECTION 2.(a)</b> G.S. 14-34.6(a) reads as rewritten:
18	"(a) A person is guilty of a Class <u>I-H</u> felony if the person commits an assault or affray
19	causing physical injury on any of the following persons who are discharging or attempting to
20	discharge their official duties:
21	(1) An emergency medical technician or other emergency health care
22	provider.services personnel, as defined in G.S. 131E-155.
23	(2) A medical responder.member of a rescue squad or EMS service.
24	(3) Hospital employee, medical practice employee, licensed health care provider,
25	or-individual under contract to provide services at a hospital or medical
26	practice.practice, or other emergency health care provider not otherwise
27	covered under subdivision (1) of this subsection.
28	
29	(5) A firefighter.
30	(6) Hospital security personnel."
31	SECTION 2.(b) Article 36 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by
32	adding a new section to read:
33	"§ 14-286.3. Exposing certain emergency responders to fentanyl or other harmful drug or
34	chemical agent; failure to notify certain emergency responders of presence of
35	<u>fentanyl or other harmful drug or chemical agent.</u>
36	(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:



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1	(1) Emergency responder. – Any of the following persons who are discharging or
2	attempting to discharge their official duties:
3	a. An emergency medical services personnel, as defined in
4	G.S. 131E-155.
5	b. A member of a rescue squad or EMS service.
5	c. <u>A firefighter.</u>
7	d. A law enforcement officer.
3	(2) Expose. – Creating a risk of skin contact, inhalation, ingestion, or contact with
)	a needlestick or a mucus membrane, including the mouth, eyes, or nose.
)	(b) Exposure. – A person is guilty of a Class H felony if the person unlawfully and
1	intentionally possesses fentanyl or any other harmful drug or chemical agent and exposes an
2	emergency responder to the fentanyl or other harmful drug or chemical agent.
3	(c) Exposure Causing Serious Bodily Injury. – A person is guilty of a Class G felony if
4	the person violates subsection (b) of this section and the emergency responder suffers serious
5	bodily injury as a result of the exposure.
5	(d) Failure to Notify. – A person is guilty of a Class I felony if the person knows fentanyl
7	or other harmful drugs or chemical agents are unlawfully present at a location an emergency
3	responder is responding to and willfully fails to notify the emergency responder of the presence
)	of the fentanyl or other harmful drug or chemical agent within a reasonable time prior to the
)	emergency responder arriving at the location.
ĺ	(e) Separate Offense. – Each violation of this section constitutes a separate offense and
2	shall not merge with any other offense."
3	<b>SECTION 2.(c)</b> This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to
1	offenses committed on or after that date.
5	offenses committee on of after that date.
5	PART III. APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT CERTAIN
, 7	FIRST RESPONDERS
3	<b>SECTION 3.(a)</b> There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
)	Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS) the sum of ten million three hundred fifty
)	thousand dollars (\$10,350,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be
	distributed as grants, upon application, to first responders for the following purposes:
2	(1) Eight million one hundred thousand dollars (\$8,100,000) to be distributed for
3	the purchase of bulletproof vests for paramedics and emergency medical
, 1	technicians.
5	(2) Two million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) to be distributed
, 5	for the purchase of bulletproof backpack plates for paramedics and emergency
,	medical technicians.
5	<b>SECTION 3.(b)</b> For purposes of this section, the term "first responders" means State
) )	and local government agencies and nonprofit corporations providing EMS services through paid
	or volunteer emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced
	emergency medical technicians, or paramedics who are registered with the NCOEMS.
2	<b>SECTION 3.(c)</b> Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
3	funds appropriated by this section shall not revert until July 1, 2028.
1	<b>SECTION 3.(d)</b> This section becomes effective July 1, 2025.
5	
5	PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE
7	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
8	law.