

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE
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S.B. 791
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45439-NQa-16

Short Title: Enhanced Penalty/Dom. Violence Strangulation. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Bradley (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING ASSAULT BY
3 STRANGULATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 14-32.4 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 14-32.4. Assault inflicting serious bodily injury; strangulation; penalties.

7 (a) Offense Involving Serious Bodily Injury. – Unless the conduct is covered under some
8 other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who assaults another person and
9 inflicts serious bodily injury is guilty of a Class ~~F-E~~ felony. "~~Serious bodily injury~~" is defined as
10 ~~bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, or that causes serious permanent~~
11 ~~disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent~~
12 ~~or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in~~
13 ~~prolonged hospitalization.~~

14 (b) Offense Involving Physical Injury. – Unless the conduct is covered under some other
15 provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who assaults another person and
16 inflicts physical injury by strangulation is guilty of a Class ~~H-G~~ felony.

17 (c) Offense Generally. – Unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of
18 law providing greater punishment, any person who assaults another person by strangulation is
19 guilty of a Class H felony.

20 (d) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

21 (1) Serious bodily injury. – Bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death,
22 or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or
23 protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss
24 or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results
25 in prolonged hospitalization.

26 (2) Strangulation. – Impeding the normal breathing or circulation of blood of
27 another person by applying pressure to the throat or neck of the person or by
28 obstructing the nose and mouth of the person."

29 SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
30 Justice the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in recurring funds beginning in the
31 2026-2027 fiscal year to be used to establish a public awareness campaign regarding the
32 increased punishments under this act.

33 SECTION 3. This act becomes effective December 1, 2026, and applies to offenses
34 committed on or after that date.

