



HOUSE BILL 707: Assaults on First Responders & Social Workers.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 3, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Pyrtle, Miller, Carson Smith, Greene	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H707-CSSA-24		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 707 would increase the punishment for assault with a firearm on certain emergency, medical, and law enforcement personnel, and increase the punishment for an assault on a legislative, executive, or court officer resulting in serious bodily injury.*

CURRENT LAW:

G.S. 14-34.5 currently makes it a felony to commit an assault with a firearm on any of the following individuals while performing their duties:

- Law enforcement, parole, or probation officers. (Class D felony)
- North Carolina National Guard members. (Class E felony)
- State or local detention facility employees. (Class D felony)

G.S. 14-34.6 currently makes it a Class E felony to commit an assault inflicting physical injury using a firearm on the following individuals while discharging their duties:

- Emergency medical technicians or other emergency health care providers.
- Medical responders.
- Firefighters.

G.S. 14-16.6 currently makes it a Class F felony to commit an assault on a legislative, executive, or court officer resulting in serious bodily injury.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Sections 1 of the PCS for House Bill 707 would modify G.S. 14-34.5 to increase the penalty to a Class B1 felony for an assault with a firearm on any of the following individuals while they are performing their duties:

- Law enforcement, parole, or probation officers.
- North Carolina National Guard members.
- State or local detention facility employees.
- Emergency medical technicians or other emergency health care providers.
- Medical responders.
- Firefighters.
- Telecommunicators

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Section 2 would make a conforming change to G.S. 14-34.6.

Section 3 would increase the penalty for assault on a legislative, executive, or court officer resulting in serious bodily injury to a Class E felony.

Section 4 would amend the definition of "court officer" for purposes of Article 5A of Chapter 14, Endangering Executive, Legislative, and Court Officers. The portion of the definition that currently includes "any attorney or other individual employed by or acting on behalf of the department of social services **in proceedings pursuant to Subchapter I of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes**" would be amended to read: "...acting on behalf of the county department of social services, as defined in G.S. 108A-24." This section would also include a contractor for a department of social services to the definition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective December 1, 2023, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.