

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

S

3

SENATE BILL 1988  
Judiciary II (Criminal) Committee Substitute Adopted 6/11/08  
Third Edition Engrossed 7/2/08

Short Title: Unlawful to Burn Cross/Hang Noose.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 28, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO BURN A CROSS OR HANG A NOOSE FOR THE INTENT OF INTIMIDATING ANOTHER PERSON BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF RECENT CROSS BURNINGS AND NOOSE HANGINGS ACROSS THE STATE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFICATION TO THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE STATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 14-401.14A. Unlawful to burn a cross or hang a noose with the intent to intimidate.**

A person who burns a cross or hangs a noose with the expectation and the probability that another person will view the cross or noose and with the intent to intimidate that person because of race, color, religion, nationality, or country of origin is guilty of a Class H felony."

**SECTION 2.** The Legislative Research Commission shall study the impact of recent cross burnings and noose hangings within the State and determine if any modifications should be made to existing statutes to lawfully deter this type of conduct. The Legislative Research Commission shall report its findings and make recommendations for legislation to the 2009 Session of the General Assembly.

**SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective December 1, 2008, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.