



For Immediate Release:

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Holloway Passes Bill to Punish False Reports of Mass Violence on School Property

This past week, the Senate in concurrence with the North Carolina House of Representatives, unanimously passed Rep. Bryan Holloway's House Bill 1347. The bill makes it a criminal offense to make a false report concerning a threat of mass violence on educational property.

Currently, it is a criminal offense to make a false report of mass violence if the threat is a bomb threat. However, if the threat maker leaves the word "bomb" out of the threat, they cannot be charged with a criminal offense. The communicating a threat statute also leaves out those who may make false reports of mass violence, since the statute is only person to person. For example, people who call a school and say they are coming to kill everyone in the school currently cannot be charged with an offense. The person did not say the word "bomb", or specifically name who they intended to harm; therefore, they could not be charged with a bomb threat or communicating a threat.

Rep. Holloway's House Bill 1347 corrects this by making it a Class H felony to make any threat of mass violence toward educational property during school hours, or during an extracurricular activity sponsored by the school. The new criminal offense is consistent with the current bomb statute which is also a Class H felony for those apprehended making bomb threats. The bill also allows the court to order the payment of restitution for any damages or cost for the disruption of normal activity.

As a former teacher at West Stokes High School, Rep. Holloway realizes how terrorizing and disruptive a threat on the school can be. His experience in government also allows him to see how expensive such threats are to the local government, since they have to go on the scene to ensure the safety of the children and staff when false threats are made. Rep. Holloway hopes his new legislation will send a clear message, and demonstrate to potential violators that no threats of any kind will be tolerated. Rep. Holloway believes that safe schools are a must if we are to succeed in education. Students and teachers cannot perform well if they are stressed and fearful. Parents also need to feel at ease when they drop their children off at school.