



2001 Legislative Summary

FUNDING:

- State funding in the amount of \$2,682,500 for domestic violence programs, with \$1 million placed in the recurring budget.
- TANF funding in the amount of \$1.8 million for domestic violence services for WorkFirst participants and \$900,000 for prevention and education.

TESTIMONIAL PRIVILEGE: *House Bill 643, NCGS § 8-53.12*

- The creation of a “qualified” privilege between counselors in domestic violence and sexual assault programs and the victims they serve regarding oral and written communication that can be released to the court.

INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS:

Senate Bill 1004, NCGS § 14-286.2

- The strengthening of the criminal law that prohibits interference with emergency communications.

STALKING LAW ENHANCED: *Senate Bill 346, NCGS § 14-277.3*

- The expansion of the definition of stalking to include serious harassment cases and an increase in the penalties for stalking.

BOND LAW EXPANDED: *Senate Bill 346, NCGS § 15A-534.1*

- The addition of the following felony domestic violence crimes to the list of offenses that require a judge, rather than a magistrate, to set bond within 48 hours: rape and sexual offenses, felonious assaults, kidnapping and felonious restraint, and arson crimes.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PROTECTIVE ORDER STATUTE:

Senate Bill 346, NCGS § 50B

- The expansion of the definition of domestic violence to include serious harassment cases.
- An increase in the penalties for violation of a domestic violence protective order.
- An increase in the duration of an ex parte DVPO issued by a magistrate.

EXTENSION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR

INTENTIONAL TORTS: *Senate Bill 686/House Bill 665, NCGS § 1-54*

- The extension of the statute of limitations from one year to three years for the intentional torts of assault, battery, and false imprisonment for victims who want to file civil actions for damages.

PROTECTION OF VOTER ROLLS: *House Bill 1188, NCGS § 163-82.10*

- Allows a registered voter who has a protective order in effect to keep his/her address confidential by the county Board of Elections.

To obtain the text of statutes or bills referred to above, please go to www.ncleg.net and enter the bill number (H# or S#) or statute number in the appropriate block.