

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 5  
Judiciary II (Criminal) Committee Substitute Adopted 4/4/07

Short Title: Methadone Distribution/2nd Degree Murder.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 12, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ADD METHADONE AND OTHER SCHEDULE I AND II DRUGS TO  
COCAINE AND METHAMPHETAMINE AS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES  
WHICH, IF UNLAWFULLY DISTRIBUTED AND CAUSE A DEATH, ALLOW  
FOR A CHARGE OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-17 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 14-17. Murder in the first and second degree defined; punishment.**

A murder which shall be perpetrated by means of a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction as defined in G.S. 14-288.21, poison, lying in wait, imprisonment, starving, torture, or by any other kind of willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing, or which shall be committed in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of any arson, rape or a sex offense, robbery, kidnapping, burglary, or other felony committed or attempted with the use of a deadly weapon shall be deemed to be murder in the first degree, a Class A felony, and any person who commits such murder shall be punished with death or imprisonment in the State's prison for life without parole as the court shall determine pursuant to G.S. 15A-2000, except that any such person who was under 17 years of age at the time of the murder shall be punished with imprisonment in the State's prison for life without parole. Provided, however, any person under the age of 17 who commits murder in the first degree while serving a prison sentence imposed for a prior murder or while on escape from a prison sentence imposed for a prior murder shall be punished with death or imprisonment in the State's prison for life without parole as the court shall determine pursuant to G.S. 15A-2000. All other kinds of murder, including that which shall be proximately caused by the unlawful distribution of opium or any synthetic or natural salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium, or cocaine or other any substance described in G.S. 90-89 and G.S. 90-90, ~~G.S. 90-90(1)d., or methamphetamine~~, when the ingestion of such substance causes the death of the user, shall be deemed murder in the second degree, and any person who commits such murder shall be punished as a Class B2 felon."

1           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2007, and applies to  
2 offenses committed on or after that date.