



North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

July 16, 2026

sent via email

Orlando Rodriguez, Esq.
NC Department of Adult Correction
214 West Jones St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations Subcommittee on Prisons requests your appearance to testify July 27, 2026, at 1:00 pm in the Legislative Building Auditorium.

In your role as General Counsel of the Department of Adult Correction and your previous role as Special Deputy Attorney General of the Department of Justice, you are uniquely qualified to discuss the 2021 *NC NCAACP v. Cooper* settlement and prison operations in North Carolina.

Please prepare a 10-minute presentation on the history and implementation of the 2021 *NC NCAACP v. Cooper* lawsuit, including a timeline from February 2020 through February 2022 and parties involved. Also, please be prepared to discuss other topics related to prison operations as appropriate.

Please read this letter carefully to ensure that you comply with all hearing requirements and that you understand your rights as a witness.

Each witness who is to appear before the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations must file with Commission Staff a written statement of proposed testimony. This must be filed by 1:00 pm four business days before your appearance. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the exclusion of your written testimony from the hearing record, the barring of your oral presentation of the testimony, or both. Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel to advise them concerning their constitutional rights but accompanying counsel shall not directly respond to questions. We reserve the right to place any witness under oath. Finally, witnesses may obtain a transcript copy of their testimony given in open, public session, or in a closed session only when authorized by the Commission.

To fully prepare for this hearing, your written testimony or slide deck must be submitted electronically to NCGAGovOps@ncleg.gov in Microsoft Word (docx), PowerPoint (pptx), or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format no later than 1:00 pm July 21, 2026. If you plan to use slides in the hearing, please provide them in pptx.

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities, including assistive listening systems, interpreters, and materials in alternate formats, may be arranged by contacting Commission Staff in advance of the hearing.



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Should you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact Haley Phillips
(haley.phillips@ncleg.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buck Newton".

Sen. Buck Newton
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenden Jones".

Rep. Brenden Jones
Co-Chair