



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

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Education Oversight Committee

Report on DWI Vehicle Forfeiture
SL 1998 – 182, sec. 38

Senate Bill 1336

Date Due: December 1, 2005
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DWI Vehicle Seizures October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has administered a statewide contract for the towing, storage, and sale of vehicles seized under North Carolina's DWI seizure law since June 1, 1999. This effectively removed local school systems from the administration of the DWI vehicle seizure laws. Tarheel Specialties Inc. of Linden, NC is the current statewide contractor for towing, storage, and sale of DWI seized vehicles.

The following data were compiled for the period October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005, from reports prepared by the Division of Motor Vehicles and Tarheel Specialties.

- A total of 4,336 vehicles were impounded, averaging over 83 vehicles per week.
- A total of 609 vehicles were released to innocent owners or lienholders upon payment of towing and storage fees. (\$6,090 going to the General Fund of North Carolina)
- Tarheel Specialties splits the storage cost of released vehicles (90%/10%) with LEAs, resulting in \$57,125 revenue for the LEAs statewide.
- 2,047 vehicles were sold at public auction for a total of \$2,203,025 or an average of \$1,076 per vehicle. Tarheel Specialties paid out \$180,254 to local tow companies to take possession of seized vehicles. The contractor is allowed to charge \$10 per day for storage, as long as the total cost does not result in any loss to the state or local school district. Administrative fees totaling \$20,470 were sent to the General Fund of North Carolina.
- Most DWI seized vehicles are auctioned under the expedited sales provision of the DWI seizure law.
- Local school systems received \$143,956 from the contractor for storage fees and proceeds from the sale of vehicles forfeited to local School Boards. Tarheel Specialties also sent \$108,864 to the Clerks of Court for vehicles not yet forfeited.
- Tarheel Specialties has approximately 1,689 vehicles that remain impounded.
- During the reporting period, 292 vehicles were reported forfeited by the Courts.
- Four forfeited vehicles have been retained by School Boards for their own use.

The attached document indicates breakdown by county of the numbers stated above.



Picture at left shows storage facility at Tarheel Specialties in Linden, NC.

For additional information, contact DPI Transportation Services, (919) 807-3570.

- Derek Graham, Section Chief
- Stephen Beachum, Consultant

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2004 - Sept. 30, 2005	Numer of vehicles released to innocent owners and lienholders	LEA Proceeds - Storage	LEA Proceeds - Forfeited Vehicles	Proceeds deposited with Clerk of Court - due to LEA if vehicle forfeited
ALAMANCE	73	10	\$ 3,301	\$ -	\$ 1,880
ALEXANDER	23	0	\$ 12	\$ -	\$ -
ALLEGHANY	2	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ANSON	13	3	\$ 360	\$ -	\$ 2,500
ASHE	19	0	\$ 692	\$ -	\$ 110
AVERY	5	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BEAUFORT	59	13	\$ 2,812	\$ -	\$ 2,635
BERTIE	4	1	\$ 528	\$ -	\$ 1,680
BLADEN	24	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BRUNSWICK	62	7	\$ 1,869	\$ -	\$ 1,240
BUNCOMBE	84	5	\$ 1,889	\$ -	\$ 3,175
BURKE	49	2	\$ 938	\$ -	\$ 1,000
CABARRUS	209	24	\$ 8,012	\$ 2,290	\$ 11,195
CALDWELL	70	5	\$ 1,972	\$ -	\$ 1,715
CAMDEN	1	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CARTERET	86	12	\$ 5,968	\$ 3,360	\$ 2,845
CASWELL	14	1	\$ 252	\$ -	\$ 200
CATAWBA	101	11	\$ 1,331	\$ -	\$ 250
CHATHAM	23	3	\$ 327	\$ -	\$ -
CHEROKEE	10	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CHOWAN	10	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLAY	3	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLEVELAND	1	0	\$ 508	\$ -	\$ 565
COLUMBUS	22	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CRAVEN	33	5	\$ 533	\$ -	\$ 145
CUMBERLAND	47	16	\$ 748	\$ -	\$ 1,620
CURRITUCK	13	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DARE	65	7	\$ 1,360	\$ -	\$ 290
DAVIDSON	57	5	\$ 679	\$ -	\$ 6
DAVIE	22	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DUPLIN	35	2	\$ 1,060	\$ -	\$ 465
DURHAM	36	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EDGECOMBE	37	4	\$ 268	\$ -	\$ 90
FORSYTH	175	31	\$ 4,502	\$ -	\$ 6,170
FRANKLIN	51	4	\$ 1,910	\$ -	\$ 2,930
GASTON	155	25	\$ 5,826	\$ -	\$ 2,920
GATES	5	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRAHAM	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRANVILLE	13	2	\$ 583	\$ -	\$ -
GREENE	10	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GUILFORD	179	17	\$ 8,444	\$ -	\$ 7,023
HALIFAX	29	4	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -
HARNETT	46	17	\$ 622	\$ 220	\$ -
HAYWOOD	19	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HENDERSON	59	4	\$ 2,154	\$ -	\$ 740
HERTFORD	15	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HOKE	28	1	\$ 337	\$ -	\$ 475
HYDE	0	1	\$ 696	\$ -	\$ 8,165
IREDELL	96	26	\$ 4,981	\$ -	\$ 4,825
JACKSON	6	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
JOHNSTON	74	13	\$ 472	\$ -	\$ 140
JONES	1	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LEE	29	2	\$ 318	\$ -	\$ -
LENOIR	37	8	\$ 814	\$ -	\$ 605
LINCOLN	17	1	\$ 359	\$ -	\$ -

COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2004 - Sept. 30, 2005	Numer of vehicles released to innocent owners and lienholders	LEA Proceeds - Storage	LEA Proceeds - Forfeited Vehicles	Proceeds deposited with Clerk of Court - due to LEA if vehicle forfeited
MACON	18	1	\$ 170	\$ -	\$ -
MADISON	11	2	\$ 948	\$ -	\$ 255
MARTIN	11	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
McDOWELL	20	2	\$ 364	\$ -	\$ 780
MECKLENBURG	121	33	\$ 4,793	\$ 5,990	\$ 435
MITCHELL	9	0	\$ 264	\$ -	\$ -
MONTGOMERY	20	2	\$ 171	\$ -	\$ -
MOORE	63	6	\$ 1,623	\$ -	\$ 2,820
NASH	79	9	\$ 2,208	\$ -	\$ 3,590
NEW HANOVER	133	15	\$ 5,931	\$ -	\$ 6,507
NORTHAMPTON	17	3	\$ 392	\$ -	\$ -
ONslow	104	20	\$ 2,870	\$ -	\$ 4,510
ORANGE	30	4	\$ 2,291	\$ -	\$ 935
PAMLICO	7	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PASQUOTANK	19	2	\$ 167	\$ -	\$ -
PENDER	20	8	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ -
PERQUIMANS	6	1	\$ 102	\$ -	\$ -
PERSON	36	2	\$ 1,057	\$ -	\$ 1,020
PITT	67	12	\$ 1,772	\$ -	\$ 1,025
POLK	6	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RANDOLPH	81	16	\$ 3,188	\$ -	\$ 1,290
RICHMOND	27	2	\$ 71	\$ -	\$ -
ROBESON	28	3	\$ 1,491	\$ -	\$ 2,455
ROCKINGHAM	70	7	\$ 2,832	\$ -	\$ 5,095
ROWAN	52	8	\$ 1,224	\$ -	\$ 195
RUTHERFORD	55	3	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 160
SAMPSON	43	6	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ 790
SCOTLAND	17	0	\$ 172	\$ -	\$ -
STANLY	47	2	\$ 913	\$ -	\$ 900
STOKES	33	2	\$ 334	\$ -	\$ -
SURRY	37	2	\$ 2,585	\$ -	\$ 1,150
SWAIN	8	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TRANSYLVANIA	17	0	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ -
TYRRELL	5	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UNION	75	14	\$ 1,636	\$ -	\$ 425
VANCE	57	2	\$ 77	\$ -	\$ -
WAKE	281	74	\$ 7,325	\$ -	\$ 2,815
WARREN	11	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WASHINGTON	6	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WATAUGA	26	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WAYNE	57	6	\$ 661	\$ -	\$ 235
WILKES	56	1	\$ 1,316	\$ 1,205	\$ -
WILSON	39	7	\$ 6,427	\$ -	\$ 1,798
YADKIN	44	4	\$ 4,776	\$ 2,083	\$ 2,080
YANCEY	11	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	4,336	609	\$ 128,808	\$ 15,148	\$ 108,864

Forfeited Vehicles Retained for use by School Boards

Craven County	Dodge Pickup
Greene County	Chevy Pickup
Harnett County	Chevy Pickup
Yadkin County	Jeep Cheorkee