

# COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES VACANCY REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PURSUANT TO G.S. § 120-12.1  
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G.S. § 120-12.1 directs the Judicial Department, the Department of Justice, the Department of Adult Correction, and the Department of Public Safety to report by February 1 of each year to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety on all positions within that department that have remained vacant for 12 months or more. The report shall include the original position vacancy dates, the dates of any postings or repostings of the positions, and an explanation for the length of the vacancies.

## **I. Statutory Requirement**

This report is prepared pursuant to G.S. § 120-12.1, which requires that the Judicial Department, the Department of Justice, the Department of Adult Correction, and the Department of Public Safety shall each report by February 1 of each year to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety on all positions within that department that have remained vacant for 12 months or more. The report shall include the original position vacancy dates, the dates of any postings or repostings of the positions, and an explanation for the length of the vacancies.

In past years, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has filed this report on behalf of the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS), but AOC has requested that IDS file our own report this year.

## **II. Explanation for Length of Vacancies**

The vacancies in Robeson and the vacancy in District 2 are all in rural areas where attracting attorneys has traditionally been difficult. IDS has been conducting outreach to students graduating from law school to attract new attorneys to the defense bar. This effort has been increased in the last eight months through a grant from IOLTA that supports a Recruitment and Training Coordinator position at IDS. Although IDS does not have the power to directly fill these vacancies, with the pressing need for public defenders in these and other counties around North Carolina, IDS is strongly encouraging public defender chiefs to take advantage of these resources to hire attorneys as swiftly as possible and is actively working with the chiefs to do so.

## **III. Positions Vacant for 12 Months or More**

IDS has four positions that have been vacant for more than 12 months.

Position Number	Position Title	District	County	Original Vacancy Date	Days Vacant
60008458	Assistant Public Defender	20	Robeson	6/1/2021	972
65034247	Assistant Public Defender	20	Robeson	1/1/2022	758
60008464	Assistant Public Defender	20	Robeson	7/30/2022	548
65017944	Assistant Public Defender	2	Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrell, Washington	11/1/2022	454

#### IV. Postings and Re-postings of Positions

Position #	County	Date originally posted	Re-posted
60008458	Robeson	09/15/21 – 09/15/21	09/08/23 – 09/21/23
65034247 60008464	Robeson	08/30/22 – 09/08/22	10/31/22 – 11/14/22 12/12/22 – 12/28/22 02/23/23 – 03/01/23 03/02/23 – 03/08/23
65017944	Beaufort	09/21/22 – 10/26/22	10/27/22 – 11/09/22 03/21/23 – 04/03/23 04/04/23 – 04/19/23 06/27/23 – 08/07/23 09/18/23 – 10/02/23