N.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PROPOSED SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Senate Bill 257

May 15, 2025



SPECIAL PROVISIONS HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MAY 14, 2025

Report Last Updated: May 14, 2025 10:47 a.m.

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2025-AOC-H2(S16.1)i

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

COLLECTION OF WORTHLESS CHECKS

2	SECTION 16.1. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 7A-308(c), the Judicial
3	Department may use any balance remaining in the Collection of Worthless Checks Fund on June
4	30, 2025, for the purchase or repair of office or information technology equipment during the
5	2025-2026 fiscal year and may use any balance remaining in the Collection of Worthless Checks
6	Fund on June 30, 2026, for the purchase or repair of office or information technology equipment
7	during the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Prior to using any funds under this section, the Judicial
8	Department shall report to the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations
9	Committees on Justice and Public Safety and the Office of State Budget and Management on the
10	equipment to be purchased or repaired and the reasons for the purchases.

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2025-AOC-H3(S16.2B)-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1 2	SPLIT D	ISTRICT COURT DISTRICT 5 INTO 5 SECTION 16.2B.(a) G.S. 7A-133(a) r	
3	"(a)	` ,	the numbers of judges as set forth in the
4	following		the numbers of judges us set form in the
5			
6	District	Judges	County
7	•••	_	·
8	<u> 55A</u>	10 4	Duplin
9			Jones
10			Onslow
11			Sampson
12	<u>5B</u>	<u>6</u>	Onslow
13	"		
14		SECTION 16.2B.(b) This section	becomes effective January 1, 2026, and
15 16	subsequer according	ŭ 0 I	Court Districts 5A and 5B shall be held

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2025-AOC-H4(S16.3)-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	REVISE MAGISTRATES IN VARIOUS COUNTIES		
2	SECTION 16.3. G.S. 7A-133(c) reads as rewritten:		
3	"(c) Each county shall have the numbers of magistrates and additional seats of district		
4	court, as set forth in the following table:		
5			
6		Magistrates	Additional
7	County	Min.	Seats of Court
8			
9	Avery	<u>34</u>	
10			
11	Buncombe	15 <u>14</u>	
12			
13	Durham	18 <u>17</u>	
14			
15	New Hanover	14 <u>15</u>	
16	"		

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2025-AOC-H8(S16.7)-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

MODIFY CIVIL REVOCATION FEE

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SECTION 16.7.(a) G.S. 20-16.5(j) reads as rewritten:

"(j) Costs. – Unless the magistrate or judge orders the revocation rescinded, a person whose license is revoked under this section must pay a fee of one-two hundred dollars (\$100.00) (\$200.00) as costs for the action before the person's license may be returned under subsection (h) of this section. Fifty-Twenty-five percent (50%)-(25%) of the costs collected under this section shall be credited to the General Fund. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the costs collected under this section shall be used to fund a statewide chemical alcohol testing program administered by the Injury Control Section of the Department of Health and Human Services. The remaining twenty-five-fifty percent (25%)-(50%) of the costs collected under this section shall be remitted to the county for the sole purpose of reimbursing the county for jail expenses incurred due to enforcement of the impaired driving laws."

SECTION 16.7.(b) This section is effective December 1, 2025, and applies to fees assessed on or after that date.

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2025-AOC-H9(S16.9)-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

- 1 REPEAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM FOLLOWING
- 2 FINAL REPORTING DATE FOR DISTRIBUTED GRANTS
- 3 **SECTION 16.9.(a)** G.S. 7A-354.1 is repealed.
- 4 **SECTION 16.9.(b)** This section becomes effective May 1, 2026.

Session 2025

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2025-AOC-H10(S16.10)-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

SALE OF MAINFRAME AND RELATED TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS

SECTION 16.10.(a) Notwithstanding Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, G.S. 143-49(4), or any other law pertaining to surplus State property, the Administrative Office of the Courts may sell its mainframe computing system and any related components on terms that the Administrative Office of the Courts deems to be in its best interest without involvement by the State Surplus Property Agency designated in G.S. 143-64.01 and without being required to pay any service charge or surcharge to the State Surplus Property Agency. The net proceeds of this sale shall be deposited in the Court Information Technology Fund established by G.S. 7A-343.2.

SECTION 16.10.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

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2025-AOC-H11(S16.11)i

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

TEMPORARILY REVISE LAW GOVERNING ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES OF COURT

DOCUMENTS
SECTION 16.11.(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary.
the chief district court judge and the senior resident superior court judge of their respective
districts may provide by rule for the court's manual signature of any orders, judgments, decrees
or other documents to be filed by the court.
SECTION 16.11.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and expires July
1, 2027.

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2025-AOC-H12(S16.12)i

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	PRESCRIBE RULES GOVERNING TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL
2	PROVIDED TO JURORS
3	SECTION 16.12.(a) Chapter 9 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
4	Article to read:
5	" <u>Article 6.</u>
6	"Education and Training of Jurors.
7	"§ 9-33. Training and educational material provided to jurors.
8	The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prescribe rules governing any training or
9	educational material provided at any time to any jurors, including jurors under this Chapter and
10	grand jurors under Chapter 15A of the General Statutes, to try any cause. The court shall not
11	provide jurors with any training or educational material that is not otherwise allowed under rules
12	prescribed by the Administrative Office of the Courts."
13	SECTION 16.12.(b) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall adopt rules
14	consistent with the provisions of this section. The Administrative Office of the Courts may use
15	the procedure set forth in G.S. 150B-21.1 to adopt any rules as required under this section.
16	SECTION 16.12.(c) This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies
17	to training or educational material provided on or after that date.

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2025-AOC-H1-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	CHANGE NAM	E OF NORTH CAROLINA INNOCENCE INQUIRY COMMISSION
2	SECT	FION 16.14.(a) Article 92 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes reads as
3	rewritten:	
4		"Article 92.
5	"Nor	th Carolina Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission.
6	"§ 15A-1460. D	efinitions.
7	The followin	g definitions apply in this Article:
8	(1)	"Claim of factual innocence" means a Claim of factual innocence. – A claim
9		on behalf of a living person convicted of a felony in the General Court of
10		Justice of the State of North Carolina, asserting the complete innocence of any
11		criminal responsibility for the felony for which the person was convicted and
12		for any other reduced level of criminal responsibility relating to the crime, and
13		for which there is some credible, verifiable evidence of innocence that has not
14		previously been presented at trial or considered at a hearing granted through
15		postconviction relief.
16	(1a)	"Claimant" means a Claimant A person asserting that he or she is
17		completely innocent of any criminal responsibility for a felony crime upon
18		which the person was convicted and for any other reduced level of criminal
19		responsibility relating to the crime.
20	(2)	"Commission" means the Commission. – The North Carolina Innocence
21		Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission established by this Article.
22	(3)	"Director" means the <u>Director</u> . – The <u>Director</u> of the North Carolina Innocence
23		Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission.
24	(3a)	"Formal inquiry" means the Formal inquiry. – The stage of an investigation
25		when the Commission has entered into a signed agreement with the original
26		claimant and the Commission has made efforts to notify the victim.
27	(4)	"Victim" means the Victim. – The victim of the crime, or if the victim of the
28		crime is deceased, the next of kin of the victim.
29		
30	9	ommission established.
31	(a) There	is established the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review

- There is established the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission. The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission shall be an independent commission under the Administrative Office of the Courts for administrative purposes.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide administrative support to the Commission as needed. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall not reduce or modify the budget of the Commission or use funds appropriated to the Commission without the approval of the Commission. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall conduct an annual audit of the Commission.

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"§ 15A-1470. No right to further review of decision by Commission or three-judge panel; convicted person retains right to other postconviction relief.

- (a) Unless otherwise authorized by this Article, the decisions of the Commission and of the three-judge panel are final and are not subject to further review by appeal, certification, writ, motion, or otherwise.
- (b) A claim of factual innocence asserted through the Innocence Inquiry Commission shall not adversely affect the convicted person's rights to other postconviction relief.

...

"§ 15A-1475. Reports.

The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission shall report annually by February 1 of each year on its activities to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety. The report shall include a record of the receipt and expenditures of all private donations, gifts, and devises for the reporting period. The report may contain recommendations of any needed legislative changes related to the activities of the Commission. The report shall recommend the funding needed by the Commission, the district attorneys, and the State Bureau of Investigation in order to meet their responsibilities under S.L. 2006-184. Recommendations concerning the district attorneys or the State Bureau of Investigation shall only be made after consultations with the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and the Director of the State Bureau of Investigation."

SECTION 16.14.(b) G.S. 15A-268(b)(3)d.4. reads as rewritten:

"4. The case has been referred to the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry—Postconviction Review Commission pursuant to Article 92 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes."

SECTION 16.14.(c) G.S. 15A-1411(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) A claim of factual innocence asserted through the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission does not constitute a motion for appropriate relief and does not impact rights or relief provided for in this Article."

SECTION 16.14.(d) G.S. 15A-1417(a)(3a) reads as rewritten:

"(3a) For claims of factual innocence, referral to the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry—Postconviction Review Commission established by Article 92 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes."

SECTION 16.14.(e) G.S. 15A-1418(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) When a motion for appropriate relief is made in the appellate division, the appellate court must decide whether the motion may be determined on the basis of the materials before it, whether it is necessary to remand the case to the trial division for taking evidence or conducting other proceedings, or, for claims of factual innocence, whether to refer the case for further investigation to the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission established by Article 92 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes. If the appellate court does not remand the case for proceedings on the motion, it may determine the motion in conjunction with the appeal and enter its ruling on the motion with its determination of the case."

SECTION 16.14.(f) G.S. 132-1.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 132-1.4. Criminal investigations; intelligence information records; Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission records.

(a) Records of criminal investigations conducted by public law enforcement agencies, records of criminal intelligence information compiled by public law enforcement agencies, and records of investigations conducted by the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry—Postconviction Review Commission, are not public records as defined by G.S. 132-1. Records of criminal investigations conducted by public law enforcement agencies or records of criminal intelligence information may be released by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

...."

SECTION 16.14.(g) G.S. 143-318.18(3a) reads as rewritten:

"(3a) The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Postconviction Review Commission."

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2025-AOC-H14-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	AMEND RECIPIENTS OF ANNUAL REPORTS ON BUSINESS COURTS	
2	SECTION 16.15.(a) G.S. 7A-343(8a) reads as rewritten:	
3	"(8a) Prepare and submit an annual report on the activities of each North Carolina	
4	business court site to the Chief Justice, the chairs of the House of	
5	Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and	
6	the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the	
7	chairs of the of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and	
8	Public Safety, and all other members of the General Assembly Safety on	
9	February 1. The report shall include the following information for each	
10	business court site:	
11	a. The number of new, closed, and pending cases for the previous three	
12	years.	
13	b. The average age of pending cases.	
14	c. The number of motions pending over six months after being filed.	
15	d. The number of cases in which bench trials have been concluded for	
16	over six months without entry of judgment, including any	
17	accompanying explanation provided by the Business Court.	
18	The report shall include an accounting of all business court activities for the	
19	previous fiscal year, including the itemized annual expenditures."	
20	SECTION 16.15.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to	
21	reports prepared on or after that date.	

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2025-AOC-H15-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

STATEWIDE MISDEMEANANT CONFINEMENT PROGRAM/REVISE REPORTING DATE ON FIVE-YEAR PROJECTION

SECTION 16.16. G.S. 164-51 reads as rewritten:

"§ 164-51. Five-year projection; Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program.

The Judicial Department, through the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (Commission) and with the assistance of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association (Sheriffs' Association), shall develop projections of available bed space in the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program (Program). The projections shall cover the next five fiscal years beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year. All State agencies, the Sheriffs' Association, and the person having administrative control of a local confinement facility as defined in G.S. 153A-217(5) shall furnish to the Commission data related to available bed space as requested to implement this section.

The Commission shall report its projections to the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than February 15, 2019, and annually thereafter. thereafter by March 15 of each year."

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2025-AOC-H16-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS	EXPENDITURE IMPLEMENTATION AND
QUARTERLY REPORTING	

SECTION 16.16A.(a) Any expenditure or adjustment to an allocation in Budget Fund 100072 or any funds allocated to district attorneys for the creation of paid internships, if approved by the Conference of District Attorneys and otherwise authorized by law, shall be implemented by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

SECTION 16.16A.(b) On a quarterly basis, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide a detailed report to the Conference of District Attorneys of the actual and expected expenses paid from Budget Fund 100072 or any other funds allocated to district attorneys.

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2025-AOC-H17-P

Administrative Office of the Courts House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR COMPLEX FAMILY FINANCIAL CASE

2	DISPOSITIO	ON					
3	SEC'	TION 16.16B.(a) Chapter 50 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a					
4	new Article to read:						
5		"Article 6.					
6		"Complex Family Financial Cases.					
7	"§ 50-110. Defin	nitions.					
8	The followin	g definitions shall apply in this Article:					
9	<u>(1)</u>	Chief hearing officer. – A hearing officer designated by the Chief Justice of					
10		the North Carolina Supreme Court who determines which cases are designated					
11		as complex family financial cases, assigns all cases designated as complex					
12		family financial cases, and prepares any required reports.					
13	<u>(2)</u>	Complex family financial case. – Any claim or claims approved for hearing					
14		as a complex family financial case as provided for by this Article. Claims					
15		eligible for hearing as a complex family financial case are equitable					
16		distribution, alimony, post separation support, child support, or any					
17		combination of those claims.					
18	<u>(3)</u>	Hearing officer or complex family financial hearing officer. – An individual					
19		who has been appointed pursuant to this Article to hear and enter orders in					
20		complex family financial cases.					
21	"§ 50-111. Com	plex family financial hearing officer.					
22	(a) Comp	plex family financial hearing officers shall be employees of the Administrative					
23	Office of the Co	urts and shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme					
24	Court. The Chief	f Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court shall designate one hearing officer					
25	as chief hearing	officer.					
26	<u>(b)</u> <u>To see</u>	erve as a hearing officer or chief hearing officer, the individual must meet the					
27	following minim	num qualifications:					
28	<u>(1)</u>	Attorney licensed in North Carolina and in good standing with the North					
29		Carolina State Bar.					
30	<u>(2)</u>	Substantial involvement handling complex family financial cases during the					
31		10 calendar years prior to the year of application, including the following:					
32		<u>a.</u> <u>Average at least 600 hours per year handling complex family financial</u>					
33		cases.					
34		b. No less than 400 hours handling complex family financial cases in any					
35		one year.					
36	<u>(3)</u>	During the five calendar years prior to the application:					
37		<u>a.</u> Completed at least 45 hours of continuing legal education credits in					
38		family law, nine of which may be in related fields, including taxation,					
39		trial advocacy, evidence, negotiation, including training in mediation,					
40		arbitration, and collaborative law, real property, estate planning and					
41		probate law, trusts, business organizations, employee benefits,					

bankruptcy, and immigration law. Only nine hours will be recognized for attendance at an extended negotiation or mediation training course. Parenting coordinator training will not qualify for family law or related field hours. A minimum of six hours continuing legal education must have been b. completed in each of those five years. Satisfactory peer review by 10 lawyers or judges who are identified by the (4) applicant. The identified individuals must have personal knowledge of the

- (4) Satisfactory peer review by 10 lawyers or judges who are identified by the applicant. The identified individuals must have personal knowledge of the competence and qualification of the applicant in handling complex family financial matters at the pretrial, trial, and posttrial level. All identified individuals must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in the State of North Carolina. No identified individual may be related by blood or marriage to the applicant nor be a colleague at the applicant's place of employment at the time of the application.
- (c) A hearing officer and the chief hearing officer shall receive the annual salary set forth in the Current Operations Appropriations Act for business court judges and the chief business court judge, and reimbursement on the same basis as State employees generally by G.S. 138-6(a), provided that no travel allowance be paid for travel within a hearing officer's county of residence. The Administrative Office of the Courts may also reimburse a hearing officer, in addition to the above funds for travel, for travel and subsistence expenses incurred for professional education.
- (d) In lieu of merit and other increment raises paid to regular State employees, a hearing officer shall receive as longevity pay an annual amount equal to four and eight-tenths percent (4.8%) of the annual salary set forth in the Current Operations Appropriations Act payable monthly after five years of service, nine and six-tenths percent (9.6%) after 10 years of service, fourteen and four-tenths percent (14.4%) after 15 years of service, nineteen and two-tenths percent (19.2%) after 20 years of service, and twenty-four percent (24%) after 25 years of service. "Service" means service as a justice or judge of the General Court of Justice, as a member of the Utilities Commission, as an administrative law judge, as director or assistant director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, or as a hearing officer. Service shall also mean service as a district attorney or as a clerk of superior court.

"§ 50-112. Authority and duties of a complex family financial case hearing officer.

- (a) A hearing officer under this Article has the following authority and responsibilities in all complex family financial cases:
 - (1) To conduct hearings and to ensure that the parties' due process rights are protected.
 - (2) To take testimony and establish a record.
 - (3) To evaluate evidence and make decisions regarding the issues being heard.
 - (4) To enter temporary, interim, and final orders related to the issues being heard that have the same force and effect as orders entered by a district court judge.
 - (5) To enter orders granting or denying any motion filed under G.S. 1A-1 or any local rules of court for the county in which the action was filed related to actions under this Chapter that have the same force and effect as orders entered by a district court judge.
 - (6) To subpoena witnesses and documents.
- (b) A hearing officer under this Article is authorized to conduct hearings on complex family financial cases statewide.
- (c) A hearing officer must complete at least nine hours of continuing legal education credits in family law or related fields each year, including taxation, trial advocacy, evidence, negotiation (including training in mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law), real property, estate planning and probate law, trusts, business organizations, employee benefits, bankruptcy, and immigration law. Only one hour per year will be recognized for attendance at negotiation or

mediation training, and parenting coordinator training will not qualify for family law or related field hours.

"§ 50-113. Designation of a complex family financial claim.

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- (a) A party designating a claim as a complex family financial claim shall file a Notice of Designation in the district court in which the action has been filed and shall contemporaneously serve the notice on all parties or counsel and on the chief hearing officer. The Notice of Designation shall, in good faith and based on information reasonably available, succinctly state each applicable factor provided in G.S. 50-114, the reasons supporting each factor for designation as a complex family financial claim, and any other information supporting designation as a complex family financial claim. Any factor or reasons supporting the designation not asserted shall be deemed conclusively waived.
- (b) Within 30 days after service of the Notice of Designation, any other party may, in good faith, file and serve an opposition to the designation of the claim as a complex family financial claim. The opposition to the designation of the claim shall assert all reasons for which the party opposing designation objects to the designation, and any reason not asserted shall be deemed conclusively waived. The opposition to the designation shall be served on each opposing party and the chief hearing officer and shall be filed in the district court in which the action has been filed.
- (c) Based on the written Notice of Designation and any opposition filed, the chief hearing officer shall determine whether the action should be designated as a complex family financial claim by written order entered within 45 days of service of the Notice of Designation.
- (d) Each party shall pay equal shares of the additional filing fee as required under G.S. 7A-305. Only one additional filing fee shall be required per complex family financial case.
- (e) Once an order granting designation of a claim as a complex family financial claim is entered, that claim shall be designated and administered as a complex family financial case and assigned to a hearing officer by the chief hearing officer. All proceedings related to the claims designated as a complex family financial claim shall be before the hearing officer to whom the complex family financial case has been assigned. If complex family financial claim status is denied, the claim shall be heard with any other claims filed under this Chapter.
- (f) Complex family financial cases are subject to all provisions of Article 1 of this Chapter, the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, the North Carolina Rules of Evidence, and any applicable local rules of court for the county in which the complex family financial case is pending.

"§ 50-114. Factors for complex family financial case determination.

The chief hearing officer shall consider each of the following factors in determining whether a claim or claims shall be designated as a complex family financial case:

- (1) Valuation and classification issues related to trusts, including active and passive increases or decreases in value.
- (2) Valuation and classification issues related to businesses, including active or passive increases or decreases in value.
- (3) <u>Valuation and classification of real property, including active or passive</u> increases or decreases in value.
- (4) Valuation and classification issues regarding complex retirement or other employment benefits, including employee stock ownership plans, stock options, profit sharing, defined contribution plans, and defined benefit plans.
- (5) Valuation and classification of profits, bonuses, or other income or assets received after the date of separation.
- (6) Active or passive changes in value to separate property during the marriage.
- (7) Tax issues arising from the distribution of assets and debts, including tax loss carryforwards, refunds, credits, or tax consequences.
- (8) Whether there are loans or transfers between businesses or shareholders.

- Whether there are third-party defendants. 1 (9) 2 <u>(10)</u> Validity of a premarital or property settlement agreement pled in defense to 3
 - an equitable distribution, alimony, post separation support, or child support case.
 - Total value of real and personal property. (11)
 - Calculation of income for spousal support, child support, or both when income (12)includes non W-2 income.
 - Total length of time requested for trial on the issues detailed on the Notice of (13)Designation.

Claims which have been filed in excess of 365 days shall be given priority over claims filed less than 365 days, and requested trial dates for the complex family financial case in excess of 15 days shall be given priority.

"§ 50-115. Complex family financial hearings.

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- Motion hearings shall be held virtually unless the assigned hearing officer determines good cause exists to hold in the hearing in person. If an in-person hearing is ordered, it shall be held at the courthouse in the county in which the action was filed in an available district or superior courtroom staffed by a deputy or assistant clerk and bailiff.
- Hearings on the issues designated as a complex family financial case shall be held in person at the courthouse in the county in which the action was filed in an available district or superior courtroom staffed by a deputy or assistant clerk and bailiff.
- All complex family financial hearings must be recorded and exhibits maintained as required for any other matter.
- Any hearing on final disposition of the complex family financial case must be scheduled on consecutive days.

"§ 50-116. Appeal from orders of the complex family financial case hearing officer.

Appeals of orders entered by a hearing officer shall be as provided for in G.S. 7A-27(b)."

SECTION 16.16B.(b) Three hearing officers shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court who meet the requirements of G.S. 50-111(b). The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court shall designate one of the hearing officers as chief hearing officer. The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court has the authority to create additional rules or procedures necessary to give effect to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 16.16B.(c) The chief hearing officer and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall collaborate to prepare and submit an initial report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Fiscal Research Division on or before August 1, 2026, and shall provide an annual report on or before August 1 of each year thereafter, including the following information:

- (1) The total number of cases designated as complex family financial cases by
- The total number of complex family financial cases disposed of. (2)
- The manner of disposition of each complex family financial case, including (3) the total number of cases for each type of disposition.
- The average length of final disposition hearings. (4)
- (5) The shortest, longest, and average length of time from designation to final disposition.
- The total number of requests for designation as complex family financial (6) cases.
- Recommendations for improvement or expansion of the program. (7)

Each annual report shall include data for the previous fiscal year.

SECTION 16.16B.(d) G.S. 7A-305 reads as rewritten:

"§ 7A-305. Costs in civil actions.

2025-AOC-H17-P [v5], ND, Modified 5/9/25 3:03 PM

(a) In every civil action in the superior or district court, except for actions brought under Chapter 50B of the General Statutes, shall be assessed:

- (1) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of twelve dollars (\$12.00) in cases heard before a magistrate, and the sum of sixteen dollars (\$16.00) in district and superior court, to be remitted to the county in which the judgment is rendered, except that in all cases in which the judgment is rendered in facilities provided by a municipality, the facilities fee shall be paid to the municipality. Funds derived from the facilities fees shall be used in the same manner, for the same purposes, and subject to the same restrictions, as facilities fees assessed in criminal actions.
- (1a) For the upgrade, maintenance, and operation of the judicial and county courthouse telecommunications and data connectivity, the sum of four dollars (\$4.00), to be credited to the Court Information Technology Fund.
- (2) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00) in the superior court and the sum of one hundred thirty dollars (\$130.00) in the district court except that if the case is assigned to a magistrate the sum shall be eighty dollars (\$80.00). If a case is designated as a mandatory complex business case under G.S. 7A-45.4, upon assignment to a Business Court Judge, the party filing the designation shall pay an additional one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100) for support of the General Court of Justice. If a case is designated as a complex business case under Rule 2.1 and Rule 2.2 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts, upon assignment to a Business Court Judge, the plaintiff shall pay an additional one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100) for support of the General Court of Justice. Justice. If a claim is designated as a complex family financial claim under G.S. 50-113, upon assignment to a complex family financial hearing officer as defined in G.S. 50-110(3), each party shall equally pay an additional one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100) for support of the General Court of Justice. Sums collected under this subdivision shall be remitted to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall remit the sum of ninety-five cents (\$.95) of each fee collected under this subdivision to the North Carolina State Bar for the provision of services described in G.S. 7A-474.19.
- (a1) Costs apply to any and all additional and subsequent actions filed by amendment or counterclaim to the original action brought under Chapter 50B of the General Statutes, unless such additional and subsequent amendment or counterclaim to the action is limited to requests for relief authorized by Chapter 50B of the General Statutes.
- (a2) In every action for absolute divorce filed in the district court, a cost of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) shall be assessed against the person filing the divorce action. Costs collected by the clerk pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the State Treasurer, who shall deposit seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) to the Domestic Violence Center Fund established under G.S. 50B-9. Costs assessed under this subsection shall be in addition to any other costs assessed under this section.
 - (a3), (a4) Repealed by Session Laws 2008-118, s. 2.9(c), effective July 1, 2008.
- (a5) In every civil action in the superior or district court wherein a party files a pleading containing one or more counterclaims, third-party complaints, or cross-claims, except for counterclaim and cross-claim actions brought under Chapter 50B of the General Statutes for which costs are assessed pursuant to subsection (a1) of this section, the following shall be assessed:
 - (1) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of twelve dollars (\$12.00) in cases heard before a magistrate, and the sum of sixteen

- dollars (\$16.00) in district and superior court, to be remitted to the municipality providing the facilities in which the judgment is rendered. If a municipality does not provide the facilities in which the judgment is rendered, the sum is to be remitted to the county in which the judgment is rendered. Funds derived from the facilities' fees shall be used in the same manner, for the same purposes, and subject to the same restrictions as facilities' fees assessed in criminal actions.
- (2) For the upgrade, maintenance, and operation of the judicial and county courthouse phone systems, the sum of four dollars (\$4.00), to be credited to the Court Information Technology Fund.
- (3) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00) in the superior court, except that if a case is assigned to a special superior court judge as a complex business case under G.S. 7A-45.3, filing fees shall be collected and disbursed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, and the sum of one hundred thirty dollars (\$130.00) in the district court, except that if the case is assigned to a magistrate, the sum shall be eighty dollars (\$80.00). Sums collected under this subdivision shall be remitted to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall remit the sum of ninety-five cents (\$.95) of each fee collected under this subdivision to the North Carolina State Bar for the provision of services described in G.S. 7A-474.19.
- (b) On appeal, costs are cumulative, and when cases heard before a magistrate are appealed to the district court, the General Court of Justice fee and the facilities fee applicable in the district court shall be added to the fees assessed before the magistrate. When an order of the clerk of the superior court is appealed to either the district court or the superior court, no additional General Court of Justice fee or facilities fee shall be assessed.
- (b1) When a defendant files an answer in an action filed as a small claim which requires the entire case to be withdrawn from a magistrate and transferred to the district court, the difference between the General Court of Justice fee and facilities fee applicable to the district court and the General Court of Justice fee and facilities fee applicable to cases heard by a magistrate shall be assessed. The defendant is responsible for paying the fee.
- (c) The clerk of superior court, at the time of the filing of the papers initiating the action or the appeal, shall collect as advance court costs, the facilities fee, General Court of Justice fee, and the divorce fee imposed under subsection (a2) of this section, except in suits by an indigent. The clerk shall also collect the fee for discovery procedures under Rule 27(a) and (b) at the time of the filing of the verified petition.
- (d) The following expenses, when incurred, are assessable or recoverable, as the case may be. The expenses set forth in this subsection are complete and exclusive and constitute a limit on the trial court's discretion to tax costs pursuant to G.S. 6-20:
 - (1) Witness fees, as provided by law.
 - (2) Jail fees, as provided by law.
 - (3) Counsel fees, as provided by law.
 - (4) Expense of service of process by certified mail and by publication.
 - (5) Costs on appeal to the superior court, or to the appellate division, as the case may be, of the original transcript of testimony, if any, insofar as essential to the appeal.
 - (6) Fees for personal service and civil process and other sheriff's fees, as provided by law. Fees for personal service by a private process server may be recoverable in an amount equal to the actual cost of such service or fifty dollars (\$50.00), whichever is less, unless the court finds that due to difficulty of service a greater amount is appropriate.

1 (7) Fees of mediators appointed by the court, mediators agreed upon by the 2 parties, guardians ad litem, referees, receivers, commissioners, surveyors, 3 arbitrators, appraisers, and other similar court appointees, as provided by law. 4 The fee of such appointees shall include reasonable reimbursement for 5 stenographic assistance, when necessary. Fees of interpreters, when authorized and approved by the court. 6 (8) 7 Premiums for surety bonds for prosecution, as authorized by G.S. 1-109. (9) 8 Reasonable and necessary expenses for stenographic and videographic (10)9 assistance directly related to the taking of depositions and for the cost of 10 deposition transcripts. Reasonable and necessary fees of expert witnesses solely for actual time spent 11 (11)12 providing testimony at trial, deposition, or other proceedings. The fee assessed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section 13 (12)14 upon assignment of a case to a special superior court judge as a complex business case. 15 16 Nothing in this subsection or in G.S. 6-20 shall be construed to limit the trial court's authority to award fees and expenses in connection with pretrial discovery matters as provided in Rule 26(b) 17 18 or Rule 37 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, and no award of costs made pursuant to this section 19 or pursuant to G.S. 6-20 shall reverse or modify any such orders entered in connection with 20 pretrial discovery. 21 Nothing in this section shall affect the liability of the respective parties for costs as (e) 22 provided by law. 23 For the support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00) 24 shall accompany any filing of a notice of hearing on a motion not listed in G.S. 7A-308 that is 25 filed with the clerk. No costs shall be assessed to a notice of hearing on a motion containing as a 26 sole claim for relief the taxing of costs, including attorneys' fees, to a motion filed pursuant to 27 G.S. 1C-1602 or G.S. 1C-1603, or to a motion filed by a child support enforcement agency 28 established pursuant to Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act. No more than one fee shall 29 be assessed for any motion for which a notice of hearing is filed, regardless of whether the hearing 30 is continued, rescheduled, or otherwise delayed." 31 **SECTION 16.16B.(e)** G.S. 7A-27 reads as rewritten: 32 "§ 7A-27. Appeals of right from the courts of the trial divisions. 33 Appeal lies of right directly to the Supreme Court in any of the following cases: (a) 34 All cases in which the defendant is convicted of murder in the first degree and 35 the judgment of the superior court includes a sentence of death. From any final judgment in a case designated as a mandatory complex 36 (2) 37 business case pursuant to G.S. 7A-45.4 or designated as a discretionary 38 complex business case pursuant to Rule 2.1 of the General Rules of Practice 39 for the Superior and District Courts. 40 From any interlocutory order of a Business Court Judge that does any of the (3) 41 following: 42 Affects a substantial right. a. 43 In effect determines the action and prevents a judgment from which an b. 44 appeal might be taken. 45 Discontinues the action. c. 46 Grants or refuses a new trial. 47 Any trial court's decision regarding class action certification under G.S. 1A-1, (4)

Repealed by Session Laws 2021-18, s. 1, effective July 1, 2021, and applicable

to appeals filed on or after that date.

Rule 23.

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1 (a1) Repealed by Session Laws 2016-125, s. 22(b), 4th Ex. Sess., effective December 1, 2 2016. 3 Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, appeal lies of right directly to the (b) 4 Court of Appeals in any of the following cases: 5 From any final judgment of a superior court, other than one based on a plea of (1) 6 guilty or nolo contendere, including any final judgment entered upon review 7 of a decision of an administrative agency, except for a final judgment entered 8 upon review of a court martial under G.S. 127A-62. From any final judgment of a district court in a civil action. 9 (2) From any interlocutory order or judgment of a superior court or district court 10 (3) 11 in a civil action or proceeding that does any of the following: Affects a substantial right. 12 13 In effect determines the action and prevents a judgment from which an b. 14 appeal might be taken. Discontinues the action. 15 c. Grants or refuses a new trial. 16 d. 17 Determines a claim prosecuted under G.S. 50-19.1. e. 18 f. Grants temporary injunctive relief restraining the State or a political 19 subdivision of the State from enforcing the operation or execution of 20 an act of the General Assembly. This sub-subdivision only applies 21 where the State or a political subdivision of the State is a party in the 22 civil action. 23 Denies, upon the court's own motion or the motion of a party, the g. 24 transfer of an action or proceeding pursuant to Rule 42(b)(4) of the 25 North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. 26 (4) From any other order or judgment of the superior court from which an appeal 27 is authorized by statute. 28 From any final judgment in a complex family financial case of a hearing <u>(5)</u> officer as defined in G.S. 50-110(3). 29 30 From any interlocutory order or judgment of a hearing officer as defined in (6) G.S. 50-110(3) in a complex family financial case that does any of the 31 32 following: 33 Affects a substantial right. a. 34 In effect determines the action and prevents a judgment from which an <u>b.</u> 35 appeal might be taken. 36 Discontinues the action. <u>c.</u> 37 Grants or refuses a new trial. <u>d.</u> 38 Determines a claim prosecuted under G.S. 50-19.1. 39 (c) through (e) Repealed by Session Laws 2013-411, s. 1, effective August 23, 2013." 40 **SECTION 16.16B.(f)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025. The Chief Justice 41 of the North Carolina Supreme Court shall appoint the three hearing officers and designate the 42 chief hearing officer as provided for in subsection (a) of this section by September 1, 2025.

Notices of Designation can be filed beginning January 1, 2026.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-IDS-H2-P

Indigent Defense Services House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

REVISE USE OF IOLTA FUNDS

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SECTION 16.18.(a) As part of its Plan for Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (NC IOLTA), referenced in Section .1300 of Subchapter 27 of Chapter 1D of the North Carolina Administrative Code, the North Carolina State Bar, in collaboration with the NC IOLTA Board, shall remit all funds received by the State Bar from banks by reason of interest earned on general trust accounts established by lawyers pursuant to Rule 1.15-2(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct or interest earned on trust or escrow accounts maintained by settlement agents pursuant to G.S. 45A-9, including any interest, dividends, or other proceeds earned on or with respect to these funds, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Indigent Defense Services, to be deposited into the Private Assigned Counsel Fund and used for the purposes of that Fund.

SECTION 16.18.(b) The North Carolina State Bar shall adopt or amend its rules consistent with the provisions of this section.

SECTION 16.18.(c) This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and all funds implicated in subsection (a) of this section and distributed on or after that date shall be distributed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-IDS-H3-P

Indigent Defense Services House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

REQUIRE THE COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES TO PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS TO SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

SECTION 16.19.(a) G.S. 7A-498.5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read: "(g1) No later than three months prior to the end of a public defender's term pursuant to an appointment under G.S. 7A-498.7, the Commission shall submit to the senior resident superior court judge who is the appointing authority of that public defender a performance evaluation for that public defender. During one or more closed sessions of the Commission held in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11, the performance evaluation shall be developed and adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the Commission. Except for members of the General Assembly who may inspect and examine a performance evaluation under the authority of G.S. 120-19, all information pertaining to a performance evaluation completed in accordance with this subsection is confidential, not a public record under G.S. 132-1, and is not subject to discovery or subpoena in a civil or criminal action."

SECTION 16.19.(b) The Commission shall develop metrics to use in evaluating the performance of public defenders in accordance with G.S. 7A-498.5(g1), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 16.19.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to public defender terms ending on or after November 30, 2025.

Session 2025

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2025-DAC-H1(S17.1)i

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

NO TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES

SECTION 17.1.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall not transfer any positions, personnel, or funds from the Department of Adult Correction to any other State agency during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium unless the transfer was included in the base budget for one or both fiscal years of the biennium.

SECTION 17.1.(b) This section shall not apply to consolidation of information technology positions into the Department of Information Technology pursuant to G.S. 143B-1325.

Session 2025

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2025-DAC-H2(S17.2)i

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS/CONTRACT AND REPORT

2 **SECTION 17.2.** The Department of Adult Correction may continue to contract with 3 The Center for Community Transitions, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the purchase of prison 4 beds for minimum security female inmates during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium. The Center for Community Transitions, Inc., shall report by February 1 of each year to the chairs of the House 5 6 of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the annual cost per inmate and the 7 8 average daily inmate population compared to bed capacity using the same methodology as that 9 used by the Department of Adult Correction.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DAC-H3(S17.3)-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	STATEWIDE MISD	EMEANANT	CONFINEMENT	PROGRAM	FUNDING U	SE
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- 2 **SECTION 17.3.** Of the funds appropriated in this act for the Statewide 3 Misdemeanant Confinement Program, up to the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
- 4 may be used in each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to reimburse sheriffs utilizing
- 5 inmate labor pursuant to the provisions of Section 19C.10 of S.L. 2021-180.

Session 2025

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2025-DAC-H4(S17.4)-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

REIMBURSE COUNTIES FOR HOUSING AND EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL EXPENSES

SECTION 17.4. Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-6-9, the Department of Adult Correction may use funds available to the Department for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to reimburse counties for the cost of housing convicted inmates, parolees, and post-release supervisees awaiting transfer to the State prison system, as provided in G.S. 148-29. The reimbursement may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day per prisoner awaiting transfer. Beginning October 1, 2025, the Department shall report quarterly to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the expenditure of funds to reimburse counties for prisoners awaiting transfer.

Session 2025

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DOT CONTRACT OF INMATE LITTER CREW



2025-DAC-H6(S17.6)i

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

SECTION 17.6.(a) After the issuance of a request for information (RFI) and receipt
of bids by the Department of Transportation for litter pickup on State highways and roads, the
Department of Transportation shall first offer the contract to the Department of Adult Correction
upon the same terms and conditions as the most favorable bid received by the Department of
Transportation from a suitable contractor. The Department of Adult Correction shall have 30
days to accept or decline the offered contract.
SECTION 17.6.(b) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the Department of

SECTION 17.6.(b) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the Department of Transportation shall utilize inmate litter crews for litter pickup on State highways and roads as often as is necessary and practicable.

Session 2025

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2025-DAC-H7(S17.7)i

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

INTERSTATE	COMPACT	FEES	TO	SUPPORT	TRAINING	PROGRAMS	AND	
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES								

SECTION 17.7.(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 148-65.7, fees collected for the Interstate Compact Fund during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium may be used by the Department of Adult Correction during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to provide training programs and equipment purchases for the Division of Community Supervision and Reentry, but only to the extent sufficient funds remain available in the Fund to support the mission of the Interstate Compact Program.

SECTION 17.7.(b) No later than October 1 of each fiscal year, the Department of Adult Correction shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the amount of funds used pursuant to this section and for what purposes the funds were used.

Session 2025

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2025-DAC-H8(S17.8)i

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

USE OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED PROPERTY

SECTION 17.8.(a) Seized and forfeited assets transferred to the Department of Adult Correction during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium pursuant to applicable federal law shall be credited to the budget of the Department of Adult Correction and shall result in an increase of law enforcement resources for the Department of Adult Correction. The Department of Adult Correction shall make the following reports to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety:

- (1) A report upon receipt of any assets.
- (2) A report that shall be made prior to the use of the assets on their intended use and the departmental priorities on which the assets may be expended.
- (3) A report on receipts, expenditures, encumbrances, and availability of these assets for the previous fiscal year, which shall be made no later than September 1 of each year.

SECTION 17.8.(b) The General Assembly finds that the use of seized and forfeited assets transferred pursuant to federal law for new personnel positions, new projects, acquisition of real property, repair of buildings where the repair includes structural change, and construction of or additions to buildings may result in additional expenses for the State in future fiscal periods. Therefore, the Department of Adult Correction is prohibited from using these assets for such purposes without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

SECTION 17.8.(c) Nothing in this section prohibits State law enforcement agencies from receiving funds from the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of the Treasury, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Session 2025

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2025-DAC-H9(S17.9)-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

<i>INCREASE</i>	THE	STATEWIDE	<i>MISDEMEANANT</i>	CONFINEMENT	FUND	DAILY
REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT						

SECTION 17.9.(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, reimbursements to counties for the costs of housing misdemeanants under the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program, as authorized by G.S. 148-10.4(d), shall be paid at a daily rate of at least fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each misdemeanant housed under the Program.

SECTION 17.9.(b) This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies to misdemeanants housed on or after that date.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-DAC-H10-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

FURTHER DELINEATE REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES FOR ROADWAY CLEANUP PROGRAM

SECTION 17.10.(a) Section 19C.10 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section 5.3 of S.L. 2025-2, reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 19C.10.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 162-58, and consistent with the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 148 of the General Statutes, sheriffs having custody of inmates under the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program may utilize those inmates to maintain the cleanliness of areas along local and State roadways, which may include the removal of debris resulting from a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) or a disaster declared by the Governor under G.S. 166A-19.21.

"SECTION 19C.10.(b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Housing night. A night spent by an individual inmate in the custody of the sheriff pursuant to the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program.
- (1)(2) Road mile. A section of roadside equaling 1 mile in length, not including any roadsides that are parallel to that section.
- (2)(3) Work hour. An hour worked by an individual inmate, including time spent traveling to and from work sites and break time taken during work efforts.

"SECTION 19C.10.(c) A sheriff that utilizes inmates pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall coordinate with the Department of Transportation before and after a cleanup project to ensure that cleanup efforts are not unnecessarily duplicated by either the sheriff's office or the Department of Transportation. The sheriff shall also ensure that all inmates utilized pursuant to this subsection are appropriately guarded while working and that food, water, and bathroom facilities are accessible in reasonable amounts and times.

"SECTION 19C.10.(d) A sheriff that utilizes inmate labor pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for a combined total of 500-work hours in one calendar month exceeding the minimum required work hours under subsection (d1) of this section shall submit a record documenting those work hours and the corresponding road miles to the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association and Association. A sheriff meeting the requirements of this section shall be reimbursed by the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program for caring for and housing the inmates of the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program at a rate of at least sixty-seventy dollars (\$60.00) (\$70.00) per day, per inmate held under the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program for each calendar month in which 500—the minimum required work hours were completed. Participating sheriffs shall comply with all requirements established by the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program necessary to certify the work hours worked and housing nights and to confirm funding availability. This increased reimbursement rate shall be paid to participating sheriffs only until the funds that have been specifically appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose are exhausted. Funds allocated under this section shall not revert but shall be available until expended.

"SECTION 19C.10.(d1) The minimum required work hours to be reimbursed at the increased rate per day under subsection (d) of this section shall be as follows:

1 (1) Fifty work hours, if the sheriff did not exceed 100 housing nights in the calendar month three months prior to the calendar month in which the work hours occur.

- One hundred fifty work hours, if the sheriff totals 101 to 200 housing nights in the calendar month three months prior to the calendar month in which the work hours occur.
- (3) Two hundred fifty work hours, if the sheriff totals 201 to 300 housing nights in the calendar month three months prior to the calendar month in which the work hours occur.
- (4) Three hundred fifty work hours, if the sheriff totals 301 to 400 housing nights in the calendar month three months prior to the calendar month in which the work hours occur.
- (5) Four hundred fifty work hours, if the sheriff totals 401 to 500 housing nights in the calendar month three months prior to the calendar month in which the work hours occur.
- (6) Five hundred work hours, if the sheriff exceeds 500 housing nights in the calendar month three months prior to the calendar month in which the work hours occur.

"SECTION 19C.10.(e) The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association shall report no later than the fifteenth day of each month to the Office of State Budget and Management and the Fiscal Research Division regarding (i) the counties with sheriffs' offices that utilized inmate labor pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (ii) the number of total work hours performed by inmates in each participating county, and (iii) the number of road miles cleaned by inmates in each participating county.

"SECTION 19C.10.(f) The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association shall report no later than October 1 of each year to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee regarding (i) the counties with sheriffs' offices that utilized inmate labor pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (ii) the number of total work hours performed by inmates in each participating county, and (iii) the number of housing nights logged in each participating county.

"SECTION 19C.10.(g) This section is effective when it becomes law."

SECTION 17.10.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to work hours performed in the next calendar month after this section becomes effective.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DAC-H11(S17.5)-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	NURSE STAFF	ING AT STATE PRISONS REPORT
2	SEC	FION 17.5.(a) Article 2 of Chapter 148 of the General Statutes is amended by
3	adding a new sec	etion to read:
4	" <u>§ 148-19.4. Nu</u>	rse staffing report.
5	By February	1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Adult Correction shall report
6	all of the follow	ing information to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and
7	Public Safety:	
8	<u>(1)</u>	The total number of permanent nursing positions allocated to the Department,
9		the number of filled positions, the number of positions that have been vacant
10		for more than six months, and information regarding the location of both filled
11		and vacant positions.
12	<u>(2)</u>	The extent to which temporary contract services are being used to staff vacant
13		nursing positions, the method for funding the contract services, and any cost
14		differences between the use of permanent employees versus contract
15		employees.
16	<u>(3)</u>	A progress report on the implementation of its plan to (i) reduce the use of
17		contract services to provide nursing in State prisons and (ii) attract and retain
18		qualified nurses for employment in permanent positions in State prisons."
19		FION 17.5.(b) G.S. 148-19 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
20	" <u>(b1)</u> Notw	ithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Adult Correction may,
21	in its discretion	and subject to the approval of the Office of State Budget and Management,
22	convert funds ap	propriated for contractual nursing services to permanent nursing positions when
23	it is determined t	o promote security, generate cost-savings, and improve health care quality. The
24	Department shall	report on any such conversions to the Fiscal Research Division."

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DAC-H14-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	AMEND REPORTING REQUIREMENT
2	SECTION 17.13.(a) G.S. 143B-1470(c) reads as rewritten:
3	"(c) The Department of Adult Correction shall report quarterly annually by September 1
4	of each year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the
5	chairs of the Justice and Public Safety Appropriations Committees on: on all of the following:
6	•••
7	Reports submitted on August 1-shall include totals for the previous fiscal year for all the
8	information requested."
9	SECTION 17.13.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
10	reports submitted on or after that date.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DAC-H15-P

Department of Adult Correction House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	STUDY THE COST COMPARISONS OF THE CURRENT DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE
2	SERVICES IN STATE PRISONS AND THE DELIVERY OF THOSE SERVICES
3	UTILIZING CONTRACT HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS
4	SECTION 17.14. No later than March 1, 2026, the Department of Adult Correction
5	shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Fiscal
6	Research Division, the House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the
7	Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety regarding the following items:
8	(1) The structure of the current delivery of healthcare services in State prisons.
9	(2) The costs, in general and for specific treatments and procedures, associated
10	with the current delivery of healthcare services in State prisons.
11	(3) A proposed structure for the future delivery of healthcare services in State
12	prisons utilizing contract healthcare services.
13	(4) The costs, in general and for specific treatments and procedures, associated
14	with the proposed future delivery of healthcare services in State prisons based
15	upon the proposal created pursuant to subdivision (3) of this section.

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-DOJ-H1(S18.1)i

Department of Justice House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

USE OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED PROPERTY

SECTION 18.1.(a) Seized and forfeited assets transferred to the Department of Justice during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium pursuant to applicable federal law shall be credited to the budget of the Department of Justice and shall result in an increase of law enforcement resources for the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice shall make the following reports to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety:

- (1) A report upon receipt of any assets.
- (2) A report that shall be made prior to use of the assets on their intended use and the departmental priorities on which the assets may be expended.
- (3) A report on receipts, expenditures, encumbrances, and availability of these assets for the previous fiscal year, which shall be made no later than September 1 of each year.

SECTION 18.1.(b) The General Assembly finds that the use of seized and forfeited assets transferred pursuant to federal law for new personnel positions, new projects, acquisition of real property, repair of buildings where the repair includes structural change, and construction of or additions to buildings may result in additional expenses for the State in future fiscal periods. Therefore, the Department of Justice is prohibited from using these assets for such purposes without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

SECTION 18.1.(c) Nothing in this section prohibits State law enforcement agencies from receiving funds from the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of the Treasury, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Session 2025

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2025-DPS-H3(S19.3)-P

Department of Public Safety House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

NO TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES

SECTION 19.3.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall not transfer any positions, personnel, or funds from the Department of Public Safety to any other State agency during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium unless the transfer was included in the base budget for one or both fiscal years of the biennium.

SECTION 19.3.(b) This section shall not apply to (i) consolidation of information technology positions into the Department of Information Technology pursuant to G.S. 143B-1325 or (ii) transfers of positions, personnel, or funds required or otherwise authorized by legislation enacted during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium or the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPS-H4(S19.4)i

Department of Public Safety House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1 2	ADD OFF GRAN		S FOR WHICH ORDERS FOR ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE MAY BE
3	GRAIV		ION 19.4.(a) G.S. 15A-290 reads as rewritten:
4	"8 15A_20		enses for which orders for electronic surveillance may be granted.
5	(a)		s authorizing or approving the interception of wire, oral, or electronic
6	` '		may be granted, subject to the provisions of this Article and Chapter 119 of
7			ited States Code, when the interception does any of the following:
8	11110 10 01	(1)	May provide or has provided evidence of the commission of, or any
9		(1)	conspiracy to commit, any of the following:
10			a. Any of the drug-trafficking violations listed in G.S. 90-95(h).
11			b. A continuing criminal enterprise in violation of G.S. 90-95.1.
12			c. The offense of money laundering in violation of G.S. 14-118.8.
13		(2)	May expedite the apprehension of persons indicted for the commission of, or
14		(2)	any conspiracy to commit, an offense listed in subdivision (1) of this
15			subsection.
16			
17	(c)	Orders	s authorizing or approving the interception of wire, oral, or electronic
18	` '		may be granted, subject to the provisions of this Article and Chapter 119 of
19			ited States Code, when the interception may provide, or has provided, evidence
20			lowing offenses, or any conspiracy to commit these offenses, or when the
21			expedite the apprehension of persons indicted for the commission of these
22	offenses:	•	
23		(1)	Any felony offense against a minor, including any violation of G.S. 14-27.31
24			(Sexual activity by a substitute parent or custodian), G.S. 14-27.32 (Sexual
25			activity with a student), G.S. 14-41 (Abduction of children), G.S. 14-43.11
26			(Human trafficking), G.S. 14-43.12 (Involuntary servitude), G.S. 14-43.13
27			(Sexual servitude), G.S. 14-190.16 (First degree sexual exploitation of a
28			minor), G.S. 14-190.17 (Second degree sexual exploitation of a minor),
29			G.S. 14-202.1 (Taking indecent liberties with children), G.S. 14-205.2(c) or
30			(d) (Patronizing a prostitute who is a minor or has a mental disability), or
31			G.S. 14-205.3(b) (Promoting prostitution of a minor or a person who has a
32			mental disability).
33		(2)	Any felony obstruction of a criminal investigation, including any violation of
34			G.S. 14-221.1 (Altering, destroying, or stealing evidence of criminal
35			conduct).
36		(3)	Any felony offense involving interference with, or harassment or intimidation
37			of, jurors or witnesses, including any violation of G.S. 14-225.2 or
38		<i>(</i> 4)	G.S. 14-226.
39		(4)	Any felony offense involving assault or threats against any executive or
40			legislative officer in violation of Article 5A of Chapter 14 of the General

1		Statutes or assault with a firearm or other deadly weapon upon governmental
2		officers or employees in violation of G.S. 14-34.2.
3	(5)	Any offense involving the manufacture, assembly, possession, storage,
4		transportation, sale, purchase, delivery, or acquisition of weapons of mass
5		death or destruction in violation of G.S. 14-288.8 or the adulteration or
6		misbranding of food, drugs, cosmetics, etc., with the intent to cause serious
7		injury in violation of G.S. 14-34.4.
8	<u>(6)</u>	Any felony offense involving human trafficking of an adult, including any
9		violation of G.S. 14-43.11 (Human trafficking), G.S. 14-43.12 (Involuntary
10		servitude), or G.S. 14-43.13 (Sexual servitude).
11	"	
12	SEC'	FION 19.4.(b) This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies
13	to offenses comr	nitted on or after that date.

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-DPS-H5(S19.5)i

Department of Public Safety House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

USE OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED PROPERTY

SECTION 19.5.(a) Seized and forfeited assets transferred to the Alcohol Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Public Safety (ALE) during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium pursuant to applicable federal law shall be credited to the budget of the ALE and shall result in an increase of law enforcement resources for the ALE. The ALE shall make the following reports to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety:

- (1) A report upon receipt of any assets.
- (2) A report that shall be made prior to use of the assets on their intended use and the departmental priorities on which the assets may be expended.
- (3) A report on receipts, expenditures, encumbrances, and availability of these assets for the previous fiscal year, which shall be made no later than September 1 of each year.

SECTION 19.5.(b) The General Assembly finds that the use of seized and forfeited assets transferred pursuant to federal law for new personnel positions, new projects, acquisition of real property, repair of buildings where the repair includes structural change, and construction of or additions to buildings may result in additional expenses for the State in future fiscal periods. Therefore, the ALE is prohibited from using these assets for such purposes without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

SECTION 19.5.(c) Nothing in this section prohibits State law enforcement agencies from receiving funds from the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of the Treasury, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

SECTION 19.5.(d) The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety shall study the impact on State and local law enforcement efforts of the receipt of seized and forfeited assets. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations prior to the convening of the 2026 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly.

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-EMER-H3(S19.6)i

Emergency Management House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

EXPAND SCOPE OF RESPONDER ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

2 **SECTION 19.6.** In addition to the persons already allowed to utilize the service, the 3 Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety shall allow emergency 4 management workers responding to disaster relief and recovery efforts in an affected area, as defined in Section 1.4 of S.L. 2024-53, to utilize the services provided under the Responder 5 6 Assistance Initiative. For purposes of this section, the term "emergency management worker" 7 means any full- or part-time paid, volunteer, or auxiliary employee of the State or any political subdivision thereof who qualifies as an "emergency management worker" under 8 9 G.S. 166A-19.60.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCNG-H1(S19.7)-P

North Carolina National Guard House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFIRMATION OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

SECTION 19.7.(a) G.S. 127A-19 reads as rewritten:

"§ 127A-19. Adjutant General.

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(a) The military head of the militia shall be the Adjutant General who shall hold the rank of major general with federal recognition at time of appointment or attain the rank of major general pursuant to this section. The Adjutant General shall be appointed by the Governor in the Governor's capacity as commander in chief of the militia, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Safety, and shall be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly by joint resolution.

The Governor shall submit the name of the person to be appointed, for confirmation by the General Assembly, to the General Assembly by May 1 of the year in which the Adjutant General is to be appointed. If the Governor does not submit the name by that date, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall submit a name to the General Assembly on or before May 15 of the same year. The appointment shall then be made by enactment of a bill. The bill shall state the name of the person being appointed, the office to which the appointment is being made, the residence of the appointee, and that the appointment is made upon the joint recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. If there is no vacancy in the office of the Adjutant General and a bill that would confirm the appointment of the person as Adjutant General fails a reading in either chamber of the General Assembly, then the Governor shall submit a new name within 30 days.

Following appointment pursuant to this section, the Adjutant General shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Adjutant General, while holding this office, shall be a member of the active North Carolina National Guard. If an appointed Adjutant General does not attain the rank of major general with federal recognition within a reasonable period of time from the date of appointment, the Governor shall replace the Adjutant General with an appointee who meets the criteria in in, and is appointed in accordance with, this section. A "reasonable period of time" shall take into account time in grade requirements for promotion or promotions and administrative periods necessary to complete the promotion process.

(a1) In case of a vacancy in the office of the Adjutant General, the name of the Adjutant General's successor shall be submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly not later than 60 days after the vacancy arises. If a vacancy arises in the office when the General Assembly is not in session, an acting Adjutant General shall be appointed by the Governor to serve pending confirmation by the General Assembly. However, in no event shall an acting Adjutant General serve (i) for more than 12 months without General Assembly confirmation or (ii) after a bill that would confirm the appointment of the person as Adjutant General fails a reading in either chamber of the General Assembly.

...."

SECTION 19.7.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCNG-H2(S19.8)i

North Carolina National Guard House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

MILITARY JUDGES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD APPOINTMENT MODIFICATIONS

SECTION 19.8.(a) G.S. 127A-50 reads as rewritten:

"§ 127A-50. Summary courts-martial.

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- (a) In the North Carolina National Guard, not in the service of the United States, summary courts-martial may be appointed by any of the following:
 - (1) Any person who may convene a general or special court-martial.
 - (2) The commander of a battalion, comparable or higher command of the North Carolina Army National Guard, provided that the commander is an officer of the grade of major or above.
 - (3) The commander of a detached squadron, comparable or higher command of the North Carolina Air National Guard, provided that the commander is an officer of the grade of major or above.
- (b) The court acting under this section shall consist of one officer who shall have the power to administer oaths and try enlisted personnel of each respective command for breaches of discipline and violations of laws governing those organizations. These courts shall also have the power to impose punishments in like manner and to the extent prescribed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Manual for Courts Martial, United States, as shall be in use by the Armed Forces of the United States at the time of the offense, except that no officer, the State military judge, and a judge advocate detailed to the court as a hearing officer. A summary court-martial shall have the authority to impose fines of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), to impose forfeitures of two-thirds pay for one month, to restrict to limits, to impose extra duty, and to reduce the rank of enlisted persons E7 and above by up to two ranks and enlisted persons E6 and below to the rank of E1.
- (c) No court <u>acting under this section</u> shall have the authority to impose confinement as part of a sentence.
- (d) There shall be no right <u>during summary courts-martial</u> to demand trial by court-martial."

SECTION 19.8.(b) G.S. 127A-50.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 127A-50.1. Military judges.

The Adjutant General shall appoint military judges to preside over courts-martial of the North Carolina National Guard not in federal service. Minimum requirements for appointment as a military judge are: are the following:

- (1) Certification as a military judge by the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard.
- (2) Designation as a judge advocate by the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard.
- (3) Membership in the North Carolina National Guard, the National Guard of another state, or the active or reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- (4) A member in good standing for at least 10 years of either of the following:

1	<u>a.</u>	The bar of the highest court of this State or any other state.
2	<u>b.</u>	The bar of a federal court.

(5) Hold the rank of lieutenant colonel or above."

SECTION 19.8.(c) Subsection (a) of this section is effective when it becomes law and applies to summary courts-martial initiated on or after that date. Subsection (b) of this section is effective when it becomes law and applies to military judges serving on or after that date, except the requirements of G.S. 127A-50.1, as amended by subsection (b) of this section, shall only apply to appointments made on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-JUV-H1(S19.10)-P

Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - DPS House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

LIMIT USE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM FUNDS

SECTION 19.10.(a) Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Safety for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium for community program contracts, that are not required for or used for community program contracts, may be used only for the following:

- (1) Other statewide residential programs that provide Level 2 intermediate dispositional alternatives for juveniles.
- (2) Statewide community programs that provide Level 2 intermediate dispositional alternatives for juveniles.
- (3) Regional programs that are collaboratives of two or more Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils which provide Level 2 intermediate dispositional alternatives for juveniles.
- (4) The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funds to be used for the Level 2 intermediate dispositional alternatives for juveniles listed in G.S. 7B-2506(13) through (23).

SECTION 19.10.(b) Funds appropriated by this act to the Department of Public Safety for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium for community programs may not be used for staffing, operations, maintenance, or any other expenses of youth development centers or detention facilities.

SECTION 19.10.(c) The Department of Public Safety shall submit an electronic report by October 1 of each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium on all expenditures made in the preceding fiscal year from the miscellaneous contract line in Budget Fund 102715 to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include all of the following: an itemized list of the contracts that have been executed, the amount of each contract, the date the contract was executed, the purpose of the contract, the number of juveniles that will be served and the manner in which they will be served, the amount of money transferred to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council fund, and an itemized list of grants allocated from the funds transferred to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council fund.

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-JUV-H2(S19.11)i

Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - DPS House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	MODIFY APPOIN	NTMENT	REQUIREMENTS	FOR	JUVENILE	FORENSIC	
2	EVALUATORS						
3	SECTION	19.11.(a)	Article 24 of Chapter	7B of	the General Sta	atutes reads as	
4	rewritten:						
5			"Article 24.				
6			"Hearing Procedures	s.			
7	•••						
8	"§ 7B-2401.1. Defini	tions.					
9	The following def	initions app	ly in this Article:				
10							
11			ment Entity/Managed C	are Org	anization or LM	IE/MCO. – As	
12	def	ined in G.S.	. 122C-3.				
13							
14	"§ 7B-2401.2. Proce	dures to det	termine capacity; hear	ing pro	cedures; evider	ice.	
15	•••						
16	` '		he juvenile to proceed is	-			
17			evaluators employed	•			
18			e Organization (LME/M				
19	-		by the Department of H				
20		forensic evaluations for juveniles to examine the juvenile and return a forensic evaluation report.					
21			e at the hearing. The co	•	• •	11	
22			hout the request of eith				
23		juvenile's ri	ght to retain his or her o	own exp	ert or the State's	right to obtain	
24	its own expert.						
25							
26			evaluation credentiali	ng; con	ducting forensi	c evaluations;	
27	written re	ports; com	pensation of experts.				
28							
29	` '		or appointed by the co				
30	±		.2, shall receive a reason				
31			c evaluation by the a				
32			ned by the North Caroli				
33			equired to appear as a v				
34			tor shall receive reiml		-	_	
35	C	by the Nort	th Carolina Administrati	ive Offi	ce of the Courts.	.	
36	"	140447		cc .	D 1 1 20	25 1 1	
37	SECTION	119.11.(b)	This section becomes ef	ttective.	December 1, 202	25, and applies	

to forensic evaluators appointed on or after that date.

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2025-SBI-H1(S20.1)i

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

USE OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED PROPERTY

SECTION 20.1.(a) Seized and forfeited assets transferred to the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium pursuant to applicable federal law shall be credited to the budget of the SBI and shall result in an increase of law enforcement resources for the SBI. The SBI shall make the following reports to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety:

- (1) A report upon receipt of any assets.
- (2) A report that shall be made prior to use of the assets on their intended use and the departmental priorities on which the assets may be expended.
- (3) A report on receipts, expenditures, encumbrances, and availability of these assets for the previous fiscal year, which shall be made no later than September 1 of each year.

SECTION 20.1.(b) The General Assembly finds that the use of seized and forfeited assets transferred pursuant to federal law for new personnel positions, new projects, acquisition of real property, repair of buildings where the repair includes structural change, and construction of or additions to buildings may result in additional expenses for the State in future fiscal periods. Therefore, the SBI is prohibited from using these assets for such purposes without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

SECTION 20.1.(c) Nothing in this section prohibits State law enforcement agencies from receiving funds from the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of the Treasury, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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2025-SBI-H2(S20.2)i

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

NO TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES

SECTION 20.2.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall not transfer any positions, personnel, or funds from the State Bureau of Investigation to any other State agency during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium unless the transfer was included in the base budget for one or both fiscal years of the biennium.

SECTION 20.2.(b) This section shall not apply to consolidation of information technology positions into the Department of Information Technology pursuant to G.S. 143B-1325.

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2025-SBI-H3(S20.3)i

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS RELATED TO MAKING THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AN INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT

SECTION 20.3.(a) G.S. 18B-902(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Investigation. – Before issuing a new permit, the Commission, with the assistance of the ALE Division, shall investigate the applicant and the premises for which the permit is requested. The Commission may request the assistance of local ABC officers in investigating applications. An applicant shall cooperate fully with the investigation.

The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the ALE Division for a person who has applied for a permit through the Commission. The ALE Division shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The ALE Division and the Commission shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

SECTION 20.3.(b) G.S. 74C-8.1(a) reads as rewritten:

Authorization. - Upon receipt of an application for a license, registration, "(a) certification, or permit, the Board shall conduct a background investigation to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements for a license, registration, certification, or permit set out in G.S. 74C-8(d). The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a new or renewal license, registration, certification, or permit through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of a new applicant, and the Department of Public Safety-Bureau shall provide a criminal record check based upon the applicant's fingerprints. The Board may request a criminal record check from the Department of Public Safety Bureau for a renewal applicant based upon the applicant's fingerprints in accordance with policy adopted by the Board. The Board shall provide any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety Bureau and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State-Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Department of <u>Public Safety Bureau</u> may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection.

The Board may require a new or renewal applicant to obtain a criminal record report from one or more reporting services designated by the Board to provide criminal record reports. Applicants are required to pay the designated reporting service for the cost of these reports."

SECTION 20.3.(c) G.S. 74D-2.1(a) reads as rewritten:

Authorization. – Upon receipt of an application for a license or registration, the Board "(a) shall conduct a background investigation to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements for a license or registration as set out in G.S. 74D-2(d). The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a new or renewal license or registration through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of a new applicant, and the Department of Public Safety Bureau shall provide a criminal record check based upon the applicant's fingerprints. The Board may request a criminal record check from the Department of Public Safety-Bureau for a renewal applicant based upon the applicant's fingerprints in accordance with policy adopted by the Board. The Board shall provide any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety-Bureau and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State-Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Department of Public Safety-Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection.

The Board may require a new or renewal applicant to obtain a criminal record report from one or more reporting services designated by the Board to provide criminal record reports. Applicants are required to pay the designated reporting service for the cost of these reports."

SECTION 20.3.(d) G.S. 84-24 reads as rewritten:

"§ 84-24. Admission to practice.

For the purpose of examining applicants and providing rules and regulations for admission to the Bar including the issuance of license therefor, there is hereby created the Board of Law Examiners, which shall consist of 11 members of the Bar, elected by the Council, who need not be members of the Council. No teacher in any law school, however, shall be eligible. The members of the Board of Law Examiners elected from the Bar shall each hold office for a term of three years.

The Board of Law Examiners shall elect a member of the Board as chair thereof, and the Board may employ an executive secretary and provide such assistance as may be required to enable the Board to perform its duties promptly and properly. The chair and any employees shall serve for a period of time determined by the Board.

The examination shall be held in the manner and at the times as the Board of Law Examiners may determine.

The Board of Law Examiners shall have full power and authority to make or cause to be made such examinations and investigations as may be deemed by it necessary to satisfy it that the applicants for admission to the Bar possess the qualifications of character and general fitness requisite for an attorney and counselor-at-law and to this end the Board of Law Examiners shall have the power of subpoena and to summons and examine witnesses under oath and to compel their attendance and the production of books, papers and other documents and writings deemed by it to be necessary or material to the inquiry and shall also have authority to employ and provide assistance as may be required to enable it to perform its duties promptly and properly. Records, papers, and other documents containing information collected and compiled by the Board or its members or employees as a result of investigations, inquiries, or interviews conducted in

connection with examinations or licensing matters, are not public records within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

All applicants for admission to the Bar shall be fingerprinted to determine whether the applicant has a record of criminal conviction in this State or in any other state or jurisdiction. The information obtained as a result of the fingerprinting of an applicant shall be limited to the official use of the Board of Law Examiners in determining the character and general fitness of the applicant.

The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board of Law Examiners for a person who has applied for a license through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this section.

The Board of Law Examiners, subject to the approval of the Council, shall by majority vote, from time to time, make, alter, and amend such rules and regulations for admission to the Bar as in their judgment shall promote the welfare of the State and the profession: Provided, that no change in the educational requirements for admission to the Bar that establishes an additional or greater requirement shall become effective until two years after the date of the adoption of the change.

All rules and regulations, and modifications, alterations and amendments thereof, shall be recorded and promulgated as provided in G.S. 84-21 in relation to the certificate of organization and the rules and regulations of the Council.

Whenever the Council shall order the restoration of license to any person as authorized by G.S. 84-32, it shall be the duty of the Board of Law Examiners to issue a written license to the person, noting thereon that the license is issued in compliance with an order of the Council, whether the license to practice law was issued by the Board of Law Examiners or the Supreme Court in the first instance.

Appeals from the Board shall be had in accordance with rules or procedures as may be approved by the Supreme Court as may be submitted under G.S. 84-21 or as may be promulgated by the Supreme Court."

SECTION 20.3.(e) G.S. 90D-7(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a new, provisional, or renewal license through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all information pursuant to this subdivision privileged, in accordance with applicable State law

and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

SECTION 20.3.(f) G.S. 90-11(b) reads as rewritten:

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"(b) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a license through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation—shall forward a set of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation—shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection. The Board has the authority to collect this fee from each applicant and remit it to the Department of Public Safety. Bureau."

SECTION 20.3.(g) G.S. 90-30(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners for a person who has applied for a license through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation—shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

SECTION 20.3.(h) G.S. 90-102.1(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Criminal Record Check. – The Department of Public Safety—State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Department of Health and Human Services for a person who has applied for a new or renewal registration. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation—shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Department of Health and Human Services shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. The Department of Public

Safety-Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

SECTION 20.3.(i) G.S. 90-210.25(a)(5)h. reads as rewritten:

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The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a new or renewal license, or certification through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all information pursuant to this subdivision privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subdivision."

SECTION 20.3.(j) G.S. 90-224(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a new or renewal license through the Board. The Board shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation—shall forward a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation—shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

SECTION 20.3.(k) G.S. 93A-4(b1) reads as rewritten:

"(b1) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Commission for a person who has applied for a license through the Commission. The Commission shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Commission shall keep all information

pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

SECTION 20.3.(*l*) G.S. 95-47.2(d)(2a) reads as rewritten:

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"(2a) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the Commissioner for a person or agency who has applied for a license through the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of all applicants, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicants consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicants' fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation-used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State-Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Commissioner shall keep all information pursuant to this subdivision privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subdivision."

SECTION 20.3.(m) G.S. 110-90.2(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation shall provide to the Division of Child Development, Department of Health and Human Services, the criminal history from the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories of any child care provider as requested by the Division.

The Division shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation, along with the request, the fingerprints of the provider to be checked, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation, and a form consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the repositories signed by the child care provider to be checked. The fingerprints of the provider shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of their criminal history record file and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a federal criminal history record check.

At the time of application the child care provider whose criminal history is to be checked shall be furnished with a statement substantially similar to the following:

"NOTICE

CHILD CARE PROVIDER MANDATORY CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

NORTH CAROLINA LAW REQUIRES THAT A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK BE CONDUCTED ON ALL PERSONS WHO PROVIDE CHILD CARE IN A LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITY, AND ALL PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE IN NONLICENSED CHILD CARE HOMES THAT RECEIVE STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDS.

"Criminal history" means a county, state, or federal criminal history of conviction, 2 pending indictment of a crime, or criminal charge, whether a misdemeanor or a felony, that bears 3 on an individual's fitness to have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children. Such 4 crimes include, but are not limited to, the following North Carolina crimes contained in any of 5 the following Articles of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes: Article 6, Homicide; Article 7B, 6 Rape and Other Sex Offenses; Article 8, Assaults; Article 10, Kidnapping and Abduction; Article 7 13, Malicious Injury or Damage by Use of Explosive or Incendiary Device or Material; Article 8 14, Burglary; Article 16, Larceny; Article 17, Robbery; Article 19, False Pretenses and Cheats; 9 Article 19A, Obtaining Property or Services by False or Fraudulent Use of Credit Device or Other Means; Article 19C, Identity Theft; Article 26, Offenses Against Public Morality and Decency; 10 Article 27, Prostitution; Article 29, Bribery; Article 35, Offenses Against the Public Peace; 11 12 Article 36A, Riots and Civil Disorders; Article 39, Protection of Minors; Article 40, Protection 13 of the Family; and Article 59, Public Intoxication. Such crimes also include cruelty to animals in 14 violation of Article 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statutes, violation of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, and alcohol-related 15 offenses such as sale to underage persons in violation of G.S. 18B-302 or driving while impaired 16 17 in violation of G.S. 20-138.1 through G.S. 20-138.5. In addition to the North Carolina crimes 18 listed in this notice, such crimes also include similar crimes under federal law or under the laws 19 of other states. Your fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the State 20 Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

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If it is determined, based on your criminal history, that you are unfit to have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children, you shall have the opportunity to complete, or challenge the accuracy of, the information contained in the SBI or FBI identification records.

If you disagree with the determination of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on your fitness to provide child care, you may file a civil lawsuit within 60 days after receiving written notification of disqualification in the district court in the county where vou live.

Any child care provider who intentionally falsifies any information required to be furnished to conduct the criminal history record check shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

Refusal to consent to a criminal history record check or intentional falsification of any information required to be furnished to conduct a criminal history record check is grounds for the Department to prohibit the child care provider from providing child care. Any child care provider who intentionally falsifies any information required to be furnished to conduct the criminal history shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

SECTION 20.3.(n) G.S. 160A-304(a) reads as rewritten:

A city may by ordinance license and regulate all vehicles operated for hire in the city. "(a) The ordinance may require that the drivers and operators of taxicabs engaged in the business of transporting passengers for hire over the public streets shall obtain a license or permit from the city; provided, however, that the license or permit fee for taxicab drivers shall not exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00). As a condition of licensure, the city may require an applicant for licensure to pass a controlled substance examination. The ordinances may also specify the types of taxicab services that are legal in the municipality; provided, that in all cases shared-ride services as well as exclusive-ride services shall be legal. Shared-ride service is defined as a taxi service in which two or more persons with either different origins or with different destinations, or both, occupy a taxicab at one time. Exclusive-ride service is defined as a taxi service in which the first passenger or party requests exclusive use of the taxicab. In the event the applicant is to be subjected to a national criminal history background check, the ordinance shall specifically authorize the use of FBI records. The ordinance shall require any applicant who is subjected to a national criminal history background check to be fingerprinted.

The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) may provide a criminal record check to the city for a person who has applied for a license or permit through the city. The city shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The city shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records authorized by this subsection.

The Any of the following factors shall be deemed sufficient grounds for refusing to issue a permit or for revoking a permit already issued:

- (1) Conviction of a felony against this State, or conviction of any offense against another state which would have been a felony if committed in this State; State.
- (2) Violation of any federal or State law relating to the use, possession, or sale of alcoholic beverages or narcotic or barbiturate <u>drugs;drugs.</u>
- (3) Addiction to or habitual use of alcoholic beverages or narcotic or barbiturate drugs;drugs.
- (4) Violation of any federal or State law relating to prostitution; prostitution.
- (5) Noncitizenship in the United States; States.
- (6) Habitual violation of traffic laws or ordinances.

The ordinance may also require operators and drivers of taxicabs to display prominently in each taxicab, so as to be visible to the passengers, the city taxi permit, the schedule of fares, a photograph of the driver, and any other identifying matter that the council may deem proper and advisable. The ordinance may also establish rates that may be charged by taxicab operators, may limit the number of taxis that may operate in the city, and may grant franchises to taxicab operators on any terms that the council may deem advisable."

SECTION 20.3.(o) Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Article 27A.

"Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Programs.

"Part 1. Registration Programs, Purpose and Definitions Generally.

"§ 14-208.6. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1a) Aggravated offense. Any criminal offense that includes either of the following: (i) engaging in a sexual act involving vaginal, anal, or oral penetration with a victim of any age through the use of force or the threat of serious violence; or (ii) engaging in a sexual act involving vaginal, anal, or oral penetration with a victim who is less than 12 years old.
- (1b) Bureau. The State Bureau of Investigation.
- (1b)(1c) County registry. The information compiled by the sheriff of a county in compliance with this Article.
- (1c) Department. The Department of Public Safety.

...

(8) Statewide registry. – The central registry compiled by the Department Bureau in accordance with G.S. 14-208.14.

1 (9)Student. – A person who is enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis, in any 2 postsecondary public or private educational institution, including any trade or 3 professional institution, or other institution of higher education. 4 5 "§ 14-208.7. Registration. 6 7 The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall provide each sheriff with forms for (b) 8 registering persons as required by this Article. The registration form shall require all of the 9 following: 10 (1) The person's full name, each alias, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye color, hair color, drivers license number, and home address. 11 12 (1a) A statement indicating what the person's name was at the time of the 13 conviction for the offense that requires registration; what alias, if any, the 14 person was using at the time of the conviction of that offense; and the name 15 of the person as it appears on the judgment imposing the sentence on the 16 person for the conviction of the offense. The type of offense for which the person was convicted, the date of conviction, 17 (2) 18 and the sentence imposed. 19 A current photograph taken by the sheriff, without charge, at the time of (3) 20 registration. 21 (4) The person's fingerprints taken by the sheriff, without charge, at the time of 22 registration. 23 A statement indicating whether the person is a student or expects to enroll as (5) 24 a student within a year of registering. If the person is a student or expects to 25 enroll as a student within a year of registration, then the registration form shall 26 also require the name and address of the educational institution at which the 27 person is a student or expects to enroll as a student. 28 A statement indicating whether the person is employed or expects to be (6) 29 employed at an institution of higher education within a year of registering. If 30 the person is employed or expects to be employed at an institution of higher 31 education within a year of registration, then the registration form shall also 32 require the name and address of the educational institution at which the person 33 is or expects to be employed. 34 Any online identifier that the person uses or intends to use. (7) 35 When a person registers, the sheriff with whom the person registered shall 36 immediately send the registration information to the Department of Public Safety Bureau in a 37 manner determined by the Department of Public Safety. Bureau. The sheriff shall retain the 38 original registration form and other information collected and shall compile the information that 39 is a public record under this Part into a county registry. 40 41 "§ 14-208.8. Prerelease notification. 42 At least 10 days, but not earlier than 30 days, before a person who will be subject to 43 registration under this Article is due to be released from a penal institution, an official of the penal institution shall do all of the following: 44 Inform the person of the person's duty to register under this Article and require 45 (1) 46 the person to sign a written statement that the person was so informed or, if 47 the person refuses to sign the statement, certify that the person was so 48 informed. 49 Obtain the registration information required under G.S. 14-208.7(b)(1), (2), (2) 50 (5), (6), and (7), as well as the address where the person expects to reside upon

the person's release.

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(3) Send the Department of Public Safety Bureau and the sheriff of the county in which the person expects to reside the information collected in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection.

..

"§ 14-208.8A. Notification requirement for out-of-county employment if temporary residence established.

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(c) Notice to Department of Public Safety. the Bureau. — Upon receiving the notice required under subsection (a) of this section, the sheriff shall immediately forward the information to the Department of Public Safety. Bureau. The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall notify the sheriff of the county where the person is working and maintaining a temporary residence of the person's place of employment and temporary address in that county.

"§ 14-208.9. Change of address; change of academic status or educational employment status; change of online identifier; change of name.

- (a) If a person required to register changes address, the person shall report in person and provide written notice of the new address not later than the third business day after the change to the sheriff of the county with whom the person had last registered. If the person moves to another county, the person shall also report in person to the sheriff of the new county and provide written notice of the person's address not later than the tenth day after the change of address. Upon receipt of the notice, the sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the Department of Public Safety. Bureau. When the Department of Public Safety Bureau receives notice from a sheriff that a person required to register is moving to another county in the State, the Department of Public Safety Bureau shall inform the sheriff of the new county of the person's new residence.
- (b) If a person required to register intends to move to another state, the person shall report in person to the sheriff of the county of current residence at least three business days before the date the person intends to leave this State to establish residence in another state or jurisdiction. The person shall provide to the sheriff a written notification that includes all of the following information: the address, municipality, county, and state of intended residence.
 - (1) If it appears to the sheriff that the record photograph of the sex offender no longer provides a true and accurate likeness of the sex offender, then the sheriff shall take a photograph of the offender to update the registration.
 - (2) The sheriff shall inform the person that the person must comply with the registration requirements in the new state of residence. The sheriff shall also immediately forward the information included in the notification to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau, and the Department of Public Safety Bureau shall inform the appropriate state official in the state to which the registrant moves of the person's notification and new address.
- (b1) A person who indicates his or her intent to reside in another state or jurisdiction and later decides to remain in this State shall, within three business days after the date upon which the person indicated he or she would leave this State, report in person to the sheriff's office to which the person reported the intended change of residence, of his or her intent to remain in this State. If the sheriff is notified by the sexual offender that he or she intends to remain in this State, the sheriff shall promptly report this information to the Department of Public Safety.Bureau.
- (c) If a person required to register changes his or her academic status either by enrolling as a student or by terminating enrollment as a student, then the person shall, within three business days, report in person to the sheriff of the county with whom the person registered and provide written notice of the person's new status. The written notice shall include the name and address of the institution of higher education at which the student is or was enrolled. The sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the Department of Public Safety.Bureau.
- (d) If a person required to register changes his or her employment status either by obtaining employment at an institution of higher education or by terminating employment at an

institution of higher education, then the person shall, within three business days, report in person to the sheriff of the county with whom the person registered and provide written notice of the person's new status not later than the tenth day after the change to the sheriff of the county with whom the person registered. The written notice shall include the name and address of the institution of higher education at which the person is or was employed. The sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the Department of Public Safety.Bureau.

- (e) If a person required to register changes an online identifier, or obtains a new online identifier, then the person shall, within 10 days, report in person to the sheriff of the county with whom the person registered to provide the new or changed online identifier information to the sheriff. The sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the Department of Public Safety.Bureau.
- (f) If a person required to register changes his or her name pursuant to Chapter 101 of the General Statutes or by any other method, then the person shall, within three business days, report in person to the sheriff of the county with whom the person registered to provide the name change to the sheriff. The sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the Department of Public Safety.Bureau.

"§ 14-208.9A. Verification of registration information.

- (a) The information in the county registry shall be verified semiannually for each registrant as follows:
 - (1) Every year on the anniversary of a person's initial registration date, and again six months after that date, the Department of Public Safety Bureau shall mail a nonforwardable verification form to the last reported address of the person.

"§ 14-208.12A. Request for termination of registration requirement.

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(a3) If the court denies the petition, the person may again petition the court for relief in accordance with this section one year from the date of the denial of the original petition to terminate the registration requirement. If the court grants the petition to terminate the registration requirement, the clerk of court shall forward a certified copy of the order to the Department of Public Safety Bureau to have the person's name removed from the registry.

"§ 14-208.12B. Registration requirement review.

(i) No sheriff, or employee of a sheriffs' office, district attorney's office, or the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation shall incur any civil or criminal liability under North Carolina law as the result of the performance of official duties under this Article.

"§ 14-208.13. File with Criminal Information Network.

- (a) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall include the registration information in the Criminal Information Network Division of Criminal Information as set forth in G.S. 143B-905.G.S. 143B-1208.19.
- (b) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall maintain the registration information permanently even after the registrant's reporting requirement expires.

"§ 14-208.14. Statewide registry; Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation designated custodian of statewide registry.

- (a) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall compile and keep current a central statewide sex offender registry. The Department Bureau is the State agency designated as the custodian of the statewide registry. As custodian the Department Bureau has the following responsibilities:
 - (1) To receive from the sheriff or any other law enforcement agency or penal institution all sex offender registrations, changes of address, changes of academic or educational employment status, and prerelease notifications

- required under this Article or under federal law. The Department Bureau shall also receive notices of any violation of this Article, including a failure to register or a failure to report a change of address.
- (2) To provide all need-to-know law enforcement agencies (local, State, campus, federal, and those located in other states) immediately upon receipt by the Department—Bureau of any of the following: registration information, a prerelease notification, a change of address, a change of academic or educational employment status, or notice of a violation of this Article.
- (2a) To notify the appropriate law enforcement unit at an institution of higher education as soon as possible upon receipt by the <u>Department-Bureau</u> of relevant information based on registration information or notice of a change of academic or educational employment status. If an institution of higher education does not have a law enforcement unit, then the <u>Department-Bureau</u> shall provide the information to the local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction for the campus.

"§ 14-208.15. Certain statewide registry information is public record: access to statewide registry.

- (a) The information in the statewide registry that is public record is the same as in G.S. 14-208.10. The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall release any other relevant information that is necessary to protect the public concerning a specific person, but shall not release the identity of the victim of the offense that required registration under this Article.
- (b) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall provide free public access to automated data from the statewide registry, including photographs provided by the registering sheriffs, via the Internet. The public will be able to access the statewide registry to view an individual registration record, a part of the statewide registry, or all of the statewide registry. The Department of Public Safety Bureau may also provide copies of registry information to the public upon written request and may charge a reasonable fee for duplicating costs and mailings costs.
- (c) Upon request of an institution of higher education, the Sheriff of the county in which the educational institution is located shall provide a report containing the registry information for any registrant who has stated that the registrant is a student or employee, or expects to become a student or employee, of that institution of higher education. The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall provide each sheriff with the ability to generate the report from the statewide registry. The report shall be provided electronically without charge. The institution of higher education may receive a written report upon payment of reasonable duplicating costs and mailing costs.

"§ 14-208.15A. Release of online identifiers to entity; fee.

- (a) The Department of Public Safety Bureau may release registry information regarding a registered offender's online identifier to an entity for the purpose of allowing the entity to prescreen users or to compare the online identifier information with information held by the entity as provided by this section.
- (b) An entity desiring to prescreen its users or compare its database of registered users to the list of online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry may apply to the Department of Public Safety Bureau to access the information. An entity that complies with the criteria developed by the Department of Public Safety Bureau regarding the release and use of the online identifier information and pays the fee may screen new users or compare its database of registered users to the list of online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry as frequently as the Department of Public Safety Bureau may allow for the purpose of identifying a registered user associated with an online identifier contained in the statewide registry.
- (c) The Department of Public Safety Bureau may charge an entity that submits a request for the online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry an annual fee of one hundred dollars

(\$100.00). Fees collected under this section shall be credited to the Department of Public Safety <u>Bureau</u> and applied to the cost of providing this service.

(d) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall develop standards regarding the release and use of online identifier information. The standards shall include a requirement that the information obtained from the statewide registry shall not be disclosed for any purpose other than for prescreening its users or comparing the database of registered users of the entity against the list of online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry.

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"§ 14-208.22. Additional registration information required.

. . .

(b) The Department of Public Safety <u>Bureau</u> shall provide each sheriff with forms for registering persons as required by this Article.

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"§ 14-208.27. Change of address.

If a juvenile who is adjudicated delinquent and required to register changes address, the juvenile court counselor for the juvenile shall provide written notice of the new address not later than the third business day after the change to the sheriff of the county with whom the juvenile had last registered. Upon receipt of the notice, the sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the Department of Public Safety. Bureau. If the juvenile moves to another county in this State, the Department of Public Safety Bureau shall inform the sheriff of the new county of the juvenile's new residence.

...

"§ 14-208.31. File with Criminal Information Network.

- (a) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall include the registration information in the Criminal Information Network Division of Criminal Information as set forth in G.S. 143B-905.G.S. 143B-1208.19.
- (b) The Department of Public Safety Bureau shall maintain the registration information permanently even after the registrant's reporting requirement expires; however, the records shall remain confidential in accordance with Article 32 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.

...."

SECTION 20.3.(p) The following sections of the General Statutes are recodified as follows:

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33
            Former Citation
                                                            Recodified Citation
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            143B-901
                                                            143B-1208.15
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            143B-902
                                                            143B-1208.16
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            143B-903
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            143B-904
                                                            143B-1208.18
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            143B-905
                                                            143B-1208.19
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SECTION 20.3.(q) G.S. 143B-1208.15, as recodified under subsection (p) of this section, reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-1208.15. Reporting system and database on certain domestic-violence-related homicides; reports by law enforcement agencies required; annual report to the General Assembly.

The Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau), in consultation with the North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, shall develop a reporting system and database that reflects the number of homicides in the State where the offender and the victim had a personal relationship, as defined by G.S. 50B-1(b). The information in the database shall also include the type of personal relationship that existed between the offender and the victim, whether the victim had obtained an order pursuant to G.S. 50B-3, and whether there was a pending charge for which the offender was on pretrial release pursuant to

G.S. 15A-534.1. All State and local law enforcement agencies shall report information to the Department of Public Safety Bureau upon making a determination that a homicide meets the reporting system's criteria. The report shall be made in the format adopted by the Department of Public Safety. Bureau shall report to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, no later than April 1 of each year, with the data collected for the previous calendar year."

SECTION 20.3.(r) G.S. 143B-1208.16, as recodified under subsection (p) of this section, reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-1208.16. Powers and duties of the Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation with respect to criminal information."

In addition to its other duties, it shall be the duty of the Department of Public Safety State <u>Bureau of Investigation (Bureau)</u> to do all of the following:

...

(2) To collect, correlate, and maintain access to information that will assist in the performance of duties required in the administration of criminal justice throughout the State. This information may include, but is not limited to, motor vehicle registration, drivers' licenses, wanted and missing persons, stolen property, warrants, stolen vehicles, firearms registration, sexual offender registration as provided under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, drugs, drug users and parole and probation histories. In performing this function, the Division-Bureau may arrange to use information available in other agencies and units of State, local and federal government, but shall provide security measures to insure that such information shall be made available only to those whose duties, relating to the administration of justice, require such information.

(4) To perform all the duties heretofore imposed by law upon the Attorney General Bureau with respect to criminal statistics.

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(6) To promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of this Article.the duties set forth in this section."

SECTION 20.3.(s) G.S. 143B-1208.17, as recodified under subsection (p) of this section, reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-1208.17. Collection of traffic law enforcement statistics.

(a) In addition to its other duties, the Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) shall collect, correlate, and maintain the following information regarding traffic law enforcement by law enforcement officers:

..

- (d) Each law enforcement officer making a stop covered by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall be assigned an anonymous identification number by the officer's employing agency. The anonymous identifying number shall be public record and shall be reported to the Department Bureau to be correlated along with the data collected under subsection (a) of this section. The correlation between the identification numbers and the names of the officers shall not be a public record, and shall not be disclosed by the agency except when required by order of a court of competent jurisdiction to resolve a claim or defense properly before the court.
- (e) Any agency subject to the requirements of this section shall submit information collected under subsection (a) of this section to the <u>Department-Bureau</u> within 60 days of the close of each month. Any agency that does not submit the information as required by this subsection shall be ineligible to receive any law enforcement grants available by or through the State until the information which is reasonably available is submitted.

(f) The Department Bureau shall publish and distribute by December 1 of each year a list indicating the law enforcement officers that will be subject to the provisions of this section during the calendar year commencing on the following January 1."

SECTION 20.3.(t) G.S. 143B-1208.18, as recodified under subsection (p) of this section, reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-1208.18. Collection of statistics on the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers.

(a) In addition to its other duties, the Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation shall collect, maintain, and annually publish the number of deaths, by law enforcement agency, resulting from the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers in the course and scope of their official duties.

...."

SECTION 20.3.(u) G.S. 143B-1208.19, as recodified under subsection (p) of this section, reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-1208.19. Criminal Information Network. Division of Criminal Information.

- (a) The Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation (Bureau) is authorized to establish, devise, maintain and operate a system for receiving and disseminating to participating agencies information collected, maintained and correlated under authority of G.S. 143B-902. G.S. 143B-1208.16. The system shall be known as the Criminal Information Network.Division of Criminal Information (DCI).
- (b) The Department of Public Safety-Bureau is authorized to cooperate with the Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Administration, and other State, local and federal agencies and organizations in carrying out the purpose and intent of this section, and to utilize, in cooperation with other State agencies and to the extent as may be practical, computers and related equipment as may be operated by other State agencies.
- (c) The Department of Public Safety, Bureau, after consultation with participating agencies, shall adopt rules and regulations governing the organization and administration of the Criminal Information Network, DCI, including rules and regulations governing the types of information relating to the administration of criminal justice to be entered into the system, and who shall have access to such information. The rules and regulations governing access to the Criminal Information Network–DCI shall not prohibit an attorney who has entered a criminal proceeding in accordance with G.S. 15A-141 from obtaining information relevant to that criminal proceeding. The rules and regulations governing access to the Criminal Information Network–DCI shall not prohibit an attorney who represents a person in adjudicatory or dispositional proceedings for an infraction from obtaining the person's driving record or criminal history.
- (d) The <u>Department Bureau</u> may impose monthly fees on participating agencies. The monthly fees collected under this subsection shall be used to offset the cost of operating and maintaining the <u>Criminal Information Network.DCI</u>. The fee amount varies depending upon the type of device. For a desktop device, the monthly fee is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per device. For a mobile device, the fee is twelve dollars (\$12.00) per device.
 - (1) The Department may impose a monthly circuit fee on agencies that access the Criminal Information Network through a circuit maintained and operated by the Department of Public Safety. The amount of the monthly fee is three hundred dollars (\$300.00) plus an additional fee amount for each device linked to the Network. The additional fee amount varies depending upon the type of device. For a desktop device after the first seven desktop devices, the additional monthly fee is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per device. For a mobile device, the additional monthly fee is twelve dollars (\$12.00) per device.
 - (2) The Department may impose a monthly device fee on agencies that access the Criminal Information Network through some other approved means. The

1 amount of the monthly device fee varies depending upon the type of device. 2 For a desktop device, the monthly fee is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per 3 device. For a mobile device, the fee is twelve dollars (\$12.00) per device." 4 **SECTION 20.3.(v)** G.S. 143B-393(a)(9) reads as rewritten: 5 Consult with the Department of Public Safety on a reporting system and 6

database on certain domestic violence-related homicides, as provided in G.S. 143B-903.G.S. 143B-1208.17."

SECTION 20.3.(w) G.S. 14-415.27 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-415.27. Expanded permit scope for certain persons.

Notwithstanding G.S. 14-415.11(c), any of the following persons who has a concealed handgun permit issued pursuant to this Article or that is considered valid under G.S. 14-415.24 is not subject to the area prohibitions set out in G.S. 14-415.11(c) and may carry a concealed handgun in the areas listed in G.S. 14-415.11(c) unless otherwise prohibited by federal law:

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- (8) A person employed by the Department of Public Safety who has been designated in writing by the Secretary of the Department and who has in the person's possession written proof of the designation.
- (8a) A person employed by the State Bureau of Investigation who has been designated in writing by the Director of the Bureau and who has in the person's possession written proof of the designation.

SECTION 20.3.(x) Section 38.4(a) of S.L. 2023-134, as amended by Section 7.1 of S.L. 2024-1 and Section 3E.1 of S.L. 2024-57, reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 38.4.(a) In accordance with G.S. 143B-1325(c)(13), and notwithstanding any other provision of Article 15 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes to the contrary, the State Highway Patrol, the State Bureau of Investigation, Patrol and the Division of Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety shall continue to be entirely exempt from any and all information technology oversight by the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Information Technology. The State Highway Patrol, the State Bureau of Investigation, Patrol and the Division of Emergency Management shall initiate a pilot project where those agencies shall be deemed as separate, stand-alone entities in all matters related to information technology, and each shall autonomously manage their own respective information technology infrastructure and all associated services without oversight from the Department of Information Technology or the Department of Public Safety. Exemption from information technology oversight includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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SECTION 20.3.(y) G.S. 20-49 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-49. Police authority of Division.

All members of the Highway Patrol and law enforcement officers of the Department of Public Safety and the State Bureau of Investigation shall have the power:

SECTION 20.3.(z) G.S. 148-37.3(c) reads as rewritten:

Any private corporation described in subsection (a) of this section shall reimburse the State and any county or other law enforcement agency for the full cost of any additional expenses incurred by the State or the county or other law enforcement agency in connection with the pursuit and apprehension of an escaped inmate from the facility.

In the event of an escape from the facility, any private corporation described in subsection (a) of this section shall immediately notify the sheriff in the county in which the facility is located. who shall cause an immediate entry into the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Information Network. Division of Criminal Information established under G.S. 143B-1208.19. The sheriff of the county in which the facility is located shall be the lead law enforcement officer in connection with the pursuit and apprehension of an escaped inmate from the facility."

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2 SECTION 20.3.(aa) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to 4 reports submitted, applications and requests received, and fees collected on or after that date.

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Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-SBI-H4(S20.4)i

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

SDIAWODVEDS! COMBENSATION EOD DESEDVE LAW ENEODCEMENT OFFICEDS

1	SDI/WORKERS COMI ENSATION FOR RESERVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
2	SECTION 20.4. G.S. 143B-1208.13 reads as rewritten:
3	"§ 143B-1208.13. Personnel of the State Bureau of Investigation.
4	The Director of the State Bureau of Investigation may appoint a sufficient number of
5	assistants who shall be competent and qualified to do the work of the Bureau. The Director shall

The Director of the State Bureau of Investigation may appoint a sufficient number of assistants who shall be competent and qualified to do the work of the Bureau. The Director shall be responsible for making all hiring and personnel decisions of the Bureau. Persons serving as reserve law enforcement officers of the Bureau are considered employees of the Bureau for workers' compensation purposes while performing duties assigned or approved by the Director of the Bureau or the Director's designee."

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2025-SBI-H5(S20.5)i

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

2	SECTION 20.5.(a) Section 7.36 of S.L. 2023-134, as amended by Sections 3J.12 and 3J.17(h) of S.L. 2024-57, reads as rewritten:
	and 31.17(h) of S.L. 2024-57, reads as rewritten:
3	and 35.17(11) of 5.12. 2021 37, reads as rewritten.
4	"
5	"SECTION 7.36.(1) Nonrevert. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
6	nonrecurring funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction in the 2022-2023 fiscal
7	year for the 2021-2023 School Safety Grants Program under Section 7.19 of S.L. 2021-180 and
8	the nonrecurring funds appropriated by this act for the 2023-2025 School Safety Grants Program
9	shall not revert to the General Fund but shall remain available for the purposes for which they
10	were appropriated until June 30, 2025. <u>2027.</u>
11	"
12	SECTION 20.5.(b) This section becomes effective June 30, 2025.

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levied on or after that date.

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2025-SBI-H6(S20.6)i

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

2	SECTION 20.6.(a) G.S. 143B-1208.19(d), as recodified and amended under Section
3	20.3 of this act, reads as rewritten:
4	"(d) The Bureau may impose monthly fees on participating agencies. The monthly fees
5	collected under this subsection shall be used to offset the cost of operating and maintaining the
6	DCI. The fee amount varies depending upon the type of device. For a desktop device, the monthly
7	fee is twenty-five thirty-three dollars (\$25.00) (\$33.00) per device. For a mobile device, the fee
8	is twelve twenty dollars (\$12.00) (\$20.00) per device."
9	SECTION 20.6 (b) This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies to fees

ADJUST USER FEE FOR DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION

2025-SBI-H6(S20.6)i [v1], ND, Modified 5/1/25 3:55 PM

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION

SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS

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2025-SBI-H7(S20.7)-P

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

2	SEC	FION 20.7.(a) Section 7.36(f) of S.L. 2023-134, as amended by Section 3J.17
3	of S.L. 2024-57,	reads as rewritten:
4	"SECTION	7.36.(f) Grants for Training to Increase School Safety Of the funds
5	appropriated by	this act for the grants provided in this section, the Executive Director of the
6	Center for Safer	Schools, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services,
7	shall award gran	ts to public school units to contract with community partners to address school
8	safety by providi	ng training to help students develop healthy responses to trauma and stress. The
9	training shall be	targeted and evidence-based and shall include any of the following services:
10	(1)	Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training for school health
11		support personnel, local first responders, and teachers on the topics of suicide
12		prevention and reducing access by students to lethal means.
13	(2)	Training for school health support personnel on comprehensive and
14		evidence-based clinical treatments for students and their parents or guardians,
15		including any of the following:
16		a. Parent-child interaction therapy.
17		b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
18		c. Behavioral therapy.
19		d. Dialectical behavior therapy.
20		e. Child-parent psychotherapy.
21	(3)	Training for students and school employees on community resilience models
22		to-models, violence prevention, and developing personal and interpersonal
23		skills to (i) enhance individual level protective factors, (ii) mitigate or reduce
24		risk taking or harmful behavior, and (iii) improve understanding and responses
25		to trauma and significant stress.
26	(4)	Training for school health support personnel on Modular Approach to
27		Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct
28		problems (MATCH-ADTC), including any of the following components:
29		a. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
30		b. Parent and student coping skills.
31		c. Problem solving.
32		d. Safety planning.
33	(5)	Any other training, including the training on the facilitation of peer to peer
34		mentoring, training or education programming that is likely to increase school
35		safety. The training or education programming authorized in this subdivision
36		includes training on the facilitation of peer-to-peer mentoring, education on
37		personal and interpersonal skills or character education, and education or
38		training addressing violence prevention and suicide prevention. Of the funds
39		appropriated by this act for the grants provided in this section, the Executive
40		Director shall use no more than three hundred fifty thousand dollars

Evidence-based therapy services aligned with targeted training for students

and their parents or guardians, including any of the following:

Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.

Parent-child interaction therapy.

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1 Dialectical behavior therapy. c. 2 Child-parent psychotherapy. d. 3 (4) Any other crisis service, including peer-to-peer mentoring, that is likely to 4 increase school safety. Of the funds appropriated by this act for the grants 5 provided in this section, the Executive Director shall use no more than three 6 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) in each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 7 fiscal biennium for the services identified in this subdivision. 8 **SECTION 20.7.(g)** Grants for Training to Increase School Safety. – Of the funds 9 appropriated by this act for the grants provided in this section, the Executive Director of the 10 Center for Safer Schools, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, shall award grants to public school units to contract with community partners to address school 11 12 safety by providing training to help students develop healthy responses to trauma and stress. The 13 training shall be targeted and evidence-based and shall include any of the following services: 14 (1) Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training for school health support personnel, local first responders, and teachers on the topics of suicide 15 prevention and reducing access by students to lethal means. 16 Training for school health support personnel on comprehensive and 17 (2) 18 evidence-based clinical treatments for students and their parents or guardians, 19 including any of the following: 20 Parent-child interaction therapy. a. 21 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. 22 Behavioral therapy. c. Dialectical behavior therapy. 23 d. 24 Child-parent psychotherapy. 25 Training for students and school employees on community resilience models, (3) 26 violence prevention, and developing personal and interpersonal skills to (i) 27 enhance individual level protective factors, (ii) mitigate or reduce risk taking 28 or harmful behavior, and (iii) improve understanding and responses to trauma 29 and significant stress. 30 (4) Training for school health support personnel on Modular Approach to Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct 31 32 problems (MATCH-ADTC), including any of the following components: 33 Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. a. 34 Parent and student coping skills. b. 35 Problem solving. c. 36 Safety planning. 37 (5) Any other training or education programming that is likely to increase school safety. The training or education programming authorized in this subdivision 38 39 includes training on the facilitation of peer-to-peer mentoring, education on 40 personal and interpersonal skills or character education, and education or 41 training addressing violence prevention and suicide prevention. Of the funds 42 appropriated by this act for the grants provided in this section, the Executive 43 Director shall use no more than three hundred fifty thousand dollars 44 (\$350,000) in each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium for the services 45 identified in this subdivision. 46 **SECTION 20.7.(h)** Grants for Safety Equipment. – Of the funds appropriated by 47 this act for the grants provided in this section, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer 48

Schools shall award grants to public school units for (i) the purchase of safety equipment for school buildings and (ii) training associated with the use of safety equipment purchased pursuant to this subsection. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-218.105(b), charter schools may receive grants for school safety equipment pursuant to this subsection.

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SECTION 20.7.(i) Subsidizing School Resource Officer Grants Program. – If the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools receives applications for grants for school resource officers under G.S. 143B-1208.20 in excess of the amount of funding appropriated for school resource officer grants in the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, the Executive Director may use the funds appropriated for the grants provided for in this section to cover the unmet need for school resource officer grants.

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SECTION 20.7.(j) Supplement Not Supplant. – Grants provided to public school units pursuant to the Program shall be used to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State funds already provided for these services.

SECTION 20.7.(k) Administrative Costs. – Of the funds appropriated to the Center for Safer Schools by this act for the grants provided in this section, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools may retain a total of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium for administrative costs associated with the Program.

SECTION 20.7.(*l*) Disbursement. – The Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Public Instruction to disburse grants awarded under this section.

SECTION 20.7.(m) Program Report. – No later than April 1 of each fiscal year in which funds are awarded pursuant to this section, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools shall report on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include at least the following information:

- (1) The identity of each public school unit and community partner that received grant funds through the Program.
- (2) The amount of funding received by each entity identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (3) The services, training, and equipment purchased with grant funds by each entity that received a grant.
- (4) Recommendations for the implementation of additional effective school safety measures.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-SBI-H8-P

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	ADD THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE STATE HIGHWAY
2	PATROL TO THE STATE VACANT POSITIONS REPORT
3	SECTION 20.8. G.S. 120-12.1 reads as rewritten:
4	"§ 120-12.1. Reports on vacant positions in various departments.
5	(a) The Judicial Department, the Department of Justice, the Department of Adult
6	Correction, and the Department of Public Safety shall each report by No later than February 1 of
7	each year year, the following entities shall report to the Chairs of the House and Senate
8	Appropriations Committees and the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations
9	Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety on all positions within that department that have
10	remained vacant for 12 months or more.more:
11	(1) The Administrative Office of the Courts.
12	(2) The Department of Justice.
13	(3) The Department of Adult Correction.
14	(4) The Department of Public Safety.
15	(5) The State Bureau of Investigation.
16	(6) The State Highway Patrol.
17	(b) The report <u>required by this section</u> shall include the original position vacancy dates,
18	the dates of any postings or repostings of the positions, and an explanation for the length of the
19	vacancies."

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION

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2025-SBI-H9-P

State Bureau of Investigation House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

2	SECTION 20.9. G.S. 143B-1730 is recodified as G.S. 143B-1208.11A and reads as
3	rewritten:
4	"§ 143B-1208.11A. Report on gang prevention recommendations.
5	The State Highway Patrol, in conjunction with the State Bureau of Investigation and
6	Investigation, in conjunction with the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public
7	Safety and the Governor's Crime Commission, shall develop recommendations concerning the
8	establishment of priorities and needed improvements with respect to gang prevention and shall
9	report those recommendations to the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate
10	Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety and to the chairs of the Joint Legislative

Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on or before March 1 of each year."

AMEND REPORT ON GANG PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Session 2025

Drafting SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-STHP-H1(S21.1)i

State Highway Patrol House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	STATE CAPITOL POLICE/CREATION OF RECEIPT-SUPPORTED POSITIONS
2	SECTION 21.1.(a) Creation of Receipt-Supported Positions Authorized. – The State
3	Capitol Police may contract with State agencies for the creation of receipt-supported positions to
4	provide security services to the buildings occupied by those agencies.
5	SECTION 21.1.(b) Annual Report Required. – No later than September 1 of each
6	fiscal year, the State Capitol Police shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
7	Justice and Public Safety the following information for the fiscal year in which the report is due:
8	(1) A list of all positions in the State Capitol Police. For each position listed, the
9	report shall include at least the following information:
10	a. The position type.
11	b. The agency to which the position is assigned.
12	c. The source of funding for the position.
13	(2) For each receipt-supported position listed, the contract and any other terms of
14	the contract.
15	SECTION 21.1.(c) Additional Reporting Required Upon Creation of
16	Receipt-Supported Positions. – In addition to the report required by subsection (b) of this section,
17	the State Capitol Police shall report the creation of any position pursuant to subsection (a) of this
18	section to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and
19	Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and to the
20	Fiscal Research Division within 30 days of the position's creation. A report submitted pursuant
21	to this section shall include at least all of the following information:
22	(1) The position type.
23	(2) The agency to which the position is being assigned.
24	(3) The position salary.
25	(4) The total amount of the contract.
26	(5) The terms of the contract.
27	SECTION 21.1.(d) Format of Reports. – Reports submitted pursuant to this section
28	shall be submitted electronically and in accordance with any applicable General Assembly
29	standards.

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2025-STHP-H2(S21.2)i

State Highway Patrol House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

USE OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED PROPERTY

SECTION 21.2.(a) Seized and forfeited assets transferred to the State Highway Patrol during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium pursuant to applicable federal law shall be credited to the budget of the State Highway Patrol and shall result in an increase of law enforcement resources for the State Highway Patrol. The State Highway Patrol shall make the following reports to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety:

- (1) A report upon receipt of any assets.
- (2) A report that shall be made prior to use of the assets on their intended use and the departmental priorities on which the assets may be expended.
- (3) A report on receipts, expenditures, encumbrances, and availability of these assets for the previous fiscal year, which shall be made no later than September 1 of each year.

SECTION 21.2.(b) The General Assembly finds that the use of seized and forfeited assets transferred pursuant to federal law for new personnel positions, new projects, acquisition of real property, repair of buildings where the repair includes structural change, and construction of or additions to buildings may result in additional expenses for the State in future fiscal periods. Therefore, the State Highway Patrol is prohibited from using these assets for such purposes without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

SECTION 21.2.(c) Nothing in this section prohibits State law enforcement agencies from receiving funds from the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of the Treasury, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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2025-STHP-H3(S21.3)i

State Highway Patrol House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

NO TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES

SECTION 21.3.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall not transfer any positions, personnel, or funds from the State Highway Patrol to any other State agency during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium unless the transfer was included in the base budget for one or both fiscal years of the biennium.

SECTION 21.3.(b) This section shall not apply to consolidation of information technology positions into the Department of Information Technology pursuant to G.S. 143B-1325.

Session 2025

Proofed SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-STHP-H6-P

State Highway Patrol House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety

1	CREATE NEW BUDGET FUND FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT LICENSE
2	AND THEFT PERSONNEL TRANSFERRED TO THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
3	SECTION 21.6. The Office of State Budget and Management and the State
4	Controller shall create a new budget fund for all funds transferred in accordance with Section
5	3E.3(b) of S.L. 2024-57.