Conference Committee Report  
Senate Bill 257, 2017 Appropriations Act  
Selected Highlights for Justice and Public Safety

The FY 2017-18 budgets for Justice and Public Safety (JPS) agencies include net appropriations of $2.7 billion, which is $78.1 million (3%) above the FY 2017-18 base budget and $102.7 million (3.9%) above the FY 2018-19 base budget.

The following selected JPS highlights may be found in Section I of the 2017 Conference Committee Report (page and item numbers noted); selected special provisions may be found in Part XVI through XVIII of S.B. 257 (section references are noted):

Department of Public Safety  
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- Eliminates $4.1 million in vacant positions to fund high-priority items. (various items)
- Provides $2.3 million and 6 FTE in operating funds for Phase II of the Samarcand Training Academy. (I-11, #8)
- Provides $1.2 million for a 200-bed female CRV facility in Buncombe County at the Swannanoa Correctional Center. The Department will reallocate positions to staff the facility. (I-15, #26)

Provisions from S.B. 257
- Expands the allowable uses of the Victims’ Compensation Fund to provide grief counseling for immediate family members. (Section 16.6)
- Raises the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16- and 17-year-olds who commit misdemeanors and Class H and Class I felonies, effective December 1, 2019. The provision also creates an Advisory Committee to develop detailed cost estimates and implementation plans for the new policy, including a study of specific criminal offenses and recommendations for their possible exclusion from the juvenile system. (Section 16D.4)

Department of Justice  
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- Reduces the Administrative and Legal Services budgets by $10 million. (I-23, #36)
- Transfers $550,989 in receipt-supported positions to General Fund support to improve efficiency in the lab and provide more stable funding. (I-24, #43)
- Provides $345,673 in recurring funding to support the requirements of the Forensic Sciences Act of 2011. (I-24-25, #44-47)
- Provides $1.7 million for the State Crime Lab to purchase or lease equipment. (I-25, #48)
**Indigent Defense Services**

Provisions from S.B. 257

- Requires Indigent Defense Services (IDS) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to develop a workload formula for determining staffing needs at the public defender offices. *(Section 18A.2)*
- Requires IDS and AOC to develop statewide standards for determining indigency of defendants. *(Section 18A.3)*

**Administrative Office of the Courts**

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- Provides $4.7 million to create 67 new deputy clerk positions in FY 2017-18 and an additional 29 new positions in FY 2018-19. *(I-40, #65)*
- Provides $2.2 million to create 31 new assistant district attorney positions throughout the State. The funding is provided for an entry-level salary of $50,000. *(I-41, #68)*

Provisions from S.B. 257

- Requires judges to notify all government entities that would receive funds before granting waivers for fines or court costs. *(Section 18B.6)*
- Allocates the 31 new assistant district attorney positions and eliminates District 9A, effective January 1, 2019. Person County is added to District 9 (Franklin, Granville, Vance, and Warren) and Caswell is added to District 17A (Rockingham). The provision also renumbers the prosecutorial districts from 1 to 43. *(Section 18B.9)*