

Highlights of the Justice and Public Safety Conference Budget

The Conference Budget for Justice and Public Safety in FY 2021-22 includes net appropriations of \$3.3 billion, which totals **\$307 million above the FY 2021-22 base budget**. This is an **10.1% increase**. FY 2022-23 includes net appropriations of \$3.4 billion, which totals **\$352.4 million above the FY 2022-23 base budget**. This is a **11.6% increase**. The highlights of the JPS adjustments follow below.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Committee Report Items

- **(Page E7, Items 8-14) State Fiscal Recovery Funds:** Provides funding for PPE, mobile WiFi hotspot devices, video conferencing equipment, overtime expenses, temporary court support personnel, and human trafficking grants: \$35.4 million in FY 2021-22.
- **(Pages E8 and E13, Items 18-21 and 46) eCourts and Court Technology:** Provides funding for the eCourts project, electronic warrants and citations, wireless expansion, technology implementation staff, and replacement of technology equipment: \$31.8 million in FY 2021-22 and \$20.6 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Pages E9-E11, Items 26, 33, 35) Domestic Violence Deputy Clerks, Guardian ad Litem, and Victim Services Coordinators:** Provides funding to replace expiring federal grant funding for 27 Domestic Violence Deputy Clerks, 20 Guardian ad Litem positions, and 150 Victim Services Coordinators in District Attorney offices: \$10.3 million in FY 2021-22 and \$12.1 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E10, Item 34) Guardian ad Litem Expansion:** Provides funding to add 20 Guardian ad Litem positions: \$1.1 million in FY 2021-22 and \$2.1 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E10, Items 29 and 30) Trial Court Judges:** Provides funding for 3 new district court judges and 2 new superior court judges: \$846k in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E9, Item 28) Magistrates:** Provides funding for 11 new magistrates: \$410k in FY 2021-22 and \$754k in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E11, Items 37 and 38) Assistant District Attorneys:** Provides funding for 24 new Assistant District Attorneys (ADA) and an allotment to fully fund the salary and benefits for 31 ADAs created in 2017: \$2.7 million in FY 2021-22 and \$5.1 million in FY 2022-23 with 24 FTE.
- **(Page E11, Item 39) District Attorney Investigators:** Provides funding for 6 new District Attorney investigators positions: \$286k in FY 2021-22 and \$525k in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E12, Items 42-45) Human Trafficking Commission (HTC), Innocence Inquiry Commission, and Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission:** Provides funding to support operations and staff for 3 independent commissions under AOC and a grant program administered by the HTC in the second year: \$862k in FY 2021-22 and \$5.8 million in FY 2022-23 with 6 FTE.

Special Provisions

- **(Section 16.17)** Ensures **speedy trials through remote testimony** in some district court cases.
- **(Section 16.7B)** Requests that the Chief Justice designate **a new business court in Wake County**.

Indigent Defense Services (IDS)

Committee Report Items

- **(Page E21, Items 56 and 57) Private Assigned Counsel Funds:** Provides funds to the Private Assigned Counsel (PAC) Fund and appropriates the receipts from the additional \$3 in court costs to enable the IDS Commission to raise reimbursement rates for PAC attorneys: \$5.6 million in FY 2021-22 and \$6.8 million in FY 2022-23.

Special Provisions

- **(Section 17.4)** Establishes a new **Public Defender Office in District 27B**, Cleveland and Lincoln counties.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Committee Report Items

- **(Page E29, Item 68) Crime Lab Scientists:** Provides funding to support 8 Crime Lab scientists: \$403k in FY 2021-22 and \$853k in FY 2022-23.
- **(Pages E28 and E29, Items 66 and 67) Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits:** Provides funding for internal and external testing of new and outstanding kits across the State: \$6.5 million in FY 2021-22 and \$3.5 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E29, Item 71) Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission to General Fund Support:** Provides recurring funding to the CJ Training and Standards Commission to replace unrealized receipts from a court fee: \$2.2 million in both years of the biennium.
- **(Page E29, Item 74) Criminal Justice Fellows Program:** Provides funding for the CJ Fellows Program, which provides forgivable loans for students pursuing law enforcement careers in rural areas of the State: \$362k in FY 2021-22 and \$694k in FY 2022-23.
- **(Pages E29 and E30, Items 73, 75, and 76) Positions for CJ Standards, Sheriffs' Standards, and the Justice Academy:** Provides funding for 10 new positions at the Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission, the Sheriffs' Training and Standards Commission, and the NC Justice Academy: \$378k in FY 2021-22 and \$757k in FY 2022-23.

Special Provisions

- **(Section 18.7) Prohibits the Attorney General from entering into collusive settlements.**
- **(Section 18.9)** Directs the State Crime Lab to **study the feasibility of creating an Eastern Crime Lab at Elizabeth City State University** in Pasquotank County.

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Committee Report Items

- **(Page E43, Items 88 and 89) State Fiscal Recovery Funds for Law Enforcement:** Provides State Fiscal Recovery Funds for VIPER equipment upgrades and the Computer Aided Dispatch system at the Highway Patrol: \$30.4 million in FY 2021-22.
- **(Page E43, Items 90) State Fiscal Recovery Funds for Reentry:** Provides State Fiscal Recovery Funds to Juvenile Justice and Community Corrections for reentry services: \$2.5 million in FY 2021-22.
- **(Page E44, Items 97 and 98) Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Transfer and Domestic Violence Notification System:** Transfers CJIN from DIT to DPS and provides funding for the commission to establish an electronic monitoring program for pre-trial domestic violence defendants: \$3.6 million in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.
- **(Pages E47 and E48, Items 123, 125, 127, 128, and 131) Equipment for State Law Enforcement:** Provides funds to the ALE, SCP, SHP, and SBI to purchase equipment, including protective equipment to respond to civil disturbances, automotive personnel carriers, a helicopter, crime scene mapping equipment, radios, and other tactical equipment: \$30.9 million in FY 2021-22.
- **(Page E48, Item 132) SBI Human Trafficking:** Provides funds to the SBI to combat human trafficking: \$259k in FY 2021-22 and \$1.0 million in FY 2022-23 with 8 FTE.
- **(Page E49, Item 136) Department of Adult Correction:** Provides funds to establish a separate Department of Adult Correction within the Governor's Cabinet, including Prisons, Community Corrections, and Correction Enterprises: \$2 million in FY2022-23 with 16 FTE.
- **(Page E49, Item 137) Establish the Division of Juvenile Justice:** Provides funds to establish Juvenile Justice as a standalone division within DPS: \$1.4 million in FY 2022-23 with 13 FTE.
- **(Pages E43, E49, and E50, Items 92, 138, and 143) Inmate Medical Budget Shortfall:** Provides State Fiscal Recovery Funds and General Fund appropriations to address a structural budgetary deficit in inmate medical fund codes, including prison pharmacy: \$33.4 million in FY 2021-22 and \$68.4 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E49, Item 139) Long-Term Care Facility at Central Prison:** Provides funding for staff and operations for a long-term care facility at Central Prison: \$4.8 million in FY 2021-22 with 35 FTE and \$7.2 million in FY 2022-23 with 77 FTE.
- **(Page E50, Item 147) Community Corrections:** Provides funding for additional community corrections positions and operational support. Positions include probation and parole officers, field officers, and social workers: \$2.6 million in FY 2021-22 and \$2.4 million in FY 2022-23 with 32 FTE.
- **(Page E49, Item 141) Misdemeanant Inmate Litter Crew Pilot Project:** Transfers funding from the Highway Fund and provides additional General Fund appropriations for a pilot project to increase reimbursements to sheriffs who form litter crews with misdemeanants serving their sentence in county jails: \$1.0 million in FY 2021-22 and \$2.5 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E50, Item 144) Critical Safety Improvements in Prisons:** Provides funding to address safety at prison facilities: \$2.8 million in each year of the biennium.

- **(Page E47, Item 119) Support Team Assisted Response (STAR):** Provides funds to establish STAR pilot programs in three counties, supporting citizens and law enforcement with mobile teams of mental health clinicians and paramedics to handle low-level incidents and connect people with needed services: \$990k in FY 2021-22.
- **(Page E51, Item 148) Competitive Emergency Management Grants:** Provides funding to the Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) for a competitive grant program for local emergency management offices in counties with a population at or below 210,000: \$3 million in FY 2021-22 and \$5 million in FY 2022-23.
- **(Page E51, Item 150) State Search and Rescue:** Provides funding to NCEM to support the State Search and Rescue program: \$2 million in each year of the biennium.
- **(Page E51, Item 153) North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency Positions:** Provides funding for resiliency positions at NCORR: \$357k in each year of the biennium with 3 FTE.
- **(Page E52, Item 159) Tarheel ChalleNGe Positions:** Provides funding for the NCNG Tarheel ChalleNGe program to support 37 new positions to comply with federal regulations. The positions are 75% federally funded: \$542k in each year of the biennium with 37 FTE.

Special Provisions

- **(Section 19C.9) Establishes a new Department of Adult Correction** within the Governor's cabinet that will include a Division of Prisons and a Division of Community Supervision and Reentry (formerly Community Corrections). **Also establishes a stand-alone Division of Juvenile Justice** within DPS.
- **(Section 19A.7) Transfers the Boxing Commission** from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Public Safety as an independent commission and renames the Commission to the North Carolina Boxing and Combat Sports Commission (NCBCSC).
- **(Section 19E.4) Expands veteran employment preference for State jobs** to include members of the National Guard.
- **(Section 19E.6) Revises the Emergency Management Act** to clarify the Governor's role.