

Highlights of the Justice and Public Safety (JPS) Budget

The Conference Budget for JPS in FY 2022-23, includes net appropriations of \$3.47 billion, which is \$124.3 million above the FY 2021-22 amount, a 3.59% increase. The highlights of the JPS adjustments are as follows:

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Committee Report Items (Pages E1-E7)

- Provides funding for **38 judicial support staff**, including Court Coordinators, in District and Superior Court. (\$3.9 million R and \$48k NR).
- Provides funding for **93 Deputy and Assistant Clerks**. (\$5.3 million R and \$97k NR).
- Provides funding for **13 Magistrates** in Caswell, Cleveland, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Wake counties. (\$924k R and \$39k NR).
- Provides funding for **11 Assistant District Attorneys** to address workload needs. (\$1.5 million R and \$41k NR).

Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 16.7)** Increases the amount of **witness compensation for former law enforcement officers** testifying in court.

Indigent Defense Services (IDS)

Committee Report Items (Pages E8-E12)

- Provides funding for **two Assistant Public Defenders and one Administrative Assistant III** in District 29A, Rutherford and McDowell counties. (\$371k R).

Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 17.1)** Authorizes the use of Private Assigned Counsel (PAC) funds to establish a new **Public Defender Office in District 2**, Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrell, and Washington counties, and **expand Public Defender Office in District 5** to include Pender County.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Committee Report Items (Pages E13-E18)

- Provides funding for **4 State Crime Lab positions**. (\$428k R).

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Committee Report Items (Pages E19-E28)

- Provides funding to the State Highway Patrol to **replace outdated and out-of-warranty tasers** and related equipment. (\$4.5 million NR).
- Provides funding to the State Bureau of Investigation for **equipment and information technology needs**. (\$282k R and \$2 million NR).
- Provides funding for 19 **specialized mental health and reentry Probation and Parole Officers (PPO)** to support the needs of offenders on community supervision with persistent mental health and substance abuse issues and facilitate access to services and programs that support successful reentry. (\$1.9 million R).
- Provides funding for 122 positions and facility operating costs, at the 60 bed **Rockingham Youth Development Center** and the 24 bed **Perquimans Detention Center**. Both facilities are scheduled to open in 2023. (\$4.6 million R and \$1.1 million NR).

Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 19A.4)** Directs DPS to work with the Office of State Budget and Management to **convert vacant Correction Officer positions into administrative positions for the newly created Department of Corrections**.
- **(Sec. 19C.2)** Requires PPOs to **reduce the supervision period of offenders under post release supervision for meeting certain conditions of their reintegration period**. Credit awarded cannot reduce the length of the offender's supervision period by more than 20%.