

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1073\*  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/18/92

Short Title: Prisoners Work for Counties.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 2, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO REQUIRE PRISONERS TO WORK ON  
PROJECTS TO BENEFIT UNITS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 4 of Chapter 162 of the General Statutes is amended by  
adding four new sections to read:

**"§ 162-58. Counties may work prisoners.**

The board of commissioners of the several counties may enact by resolution all  
necessary rules and regulations for work on projects to benefit units of State or local  
government by persons convicted of crimes and imprisoned in the local confinement  
facilities or satellite jail/work release units of their respective counties. The sheriff shall  
approve rules and regulations enacted by the board. Prisoners working under this  
section shall be supervised by county employees or by the sheriff. The rules enacted by  
the board of county commissioners and approved by the sheriff shall specify a  
procedure for ensuring that county employees supervising prisoners pursuant to this  
section be provided with notice that the persons placed under their supervision are  
inmates from a local confinement facility or a satellite jail/work release unit.

**"§ 162-59. Person having custody to approve prisoners for work.**

No prisoner shall perform work pursuant to G.S. 162-58 unless the prisoner has been  
approved for the work by the person having custody of the prisoner. The decision to  
approve a prisoner for work shall be based on the prisoner's history of violence, if any,  
past criminal convictions, and current sentence. For purposes of this section, the person  
having custody of the prisoner is the sheriff, except that when the prisoner is confined in

1 a district confinement facility the person having custody of the prisoner is the jail  
2 administrator. The person having custody of the prisoner may use his discretion to  
3 revoke his approval at any time and to return the prisoner to the local confinement  
4 facility or satellite jail/work release unit. Neither the person having custody of the  
5 prisoner nor any jailer may be held liable for the actions of any prisoner, including those  
6 actions committed during and after the escape of a prisoner, while the prisoner is  
7 outside their supervision pursuant to this section.

8 **"§ 162-60. Reduction in sentence allowed for work.**

9 In addition to any gain time credit to which he is otherwise entitled, a prisoner who  
10 has faithfully performed the duties assigned to him pursuant to G.S. 162-58 is entitled to  
11 a reduction in his sentence of four days for each 30 days of work performed. The  
12 person having custody of the prisoner, as defined in G.S. 162-59, shall be the sole judge  
13 as to whether the prisoner has faithfully performed his duties. A prisoner who escapes  
14 or attempts to escape while performing work pursuant to G.S. 162-58 shall forfeit any  
15 reduction in sentence that he would have been entitled to under this section.

16 **"§ 162-61. Liability of county.**

17 The county working prisoners pursuant to G.S. 162-58 shall remain liable for  
18 emergency medical services for those prisoners pursuant to G.S. 153A-224 while the  
19 prisoners are working. The county working the prisoners shall be liable to third parties  
20 for injuries incurred by the third parties through the negligence of the working prisoners  
21 to the same extent as the county is liable for the actions of its other employees.  
22 Chapters 96 and 97 of the General Statutes shall have no application to prisoners  
23 working pursuant to G.S. 162-58."

24 Sec. 2. G.S. 14-255 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 14-255. Escape of ~~hired~~ working prisoners from custody.**

26 If any prisoner, who shall be removed from the prison of the respective counties,  
27 cities and towns under the law providing for the hiring out of prisoners by counties and  
28 towns, prisoner removed from the local confinement facility or satellite jail/work release  
29 unit of a county pursuant to G.S. 162-58 shall escape from the person ~~or company~~  
30 having him in ~~eustody~~, custody or the person supervising him, he shall be guilty of a  
31 ~~misdemeanor, misdemeanor and shall be imprisoned at hard labor not more than 30~~  
32 ~~days, or fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00)."~~

33 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.