GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

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SENATE BILL 103*

Short Title: Court Costs to Crime Stoppers.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Carpenter and Plexico.

Referred to: Courts

February 15, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

- 2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE COSTS IN CRIMINAL ACTIONS BEFORE THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO BE USED AS 3 4
- REWARD MONEY TO BE PAID OUT BY LOCAL "CRIME STOPPERS" 5 PROGRAMS.
- The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 6

Section 1. G.S. 7A-304 reads as rewritten:

8 "§ 7A-304. Costs in criminal actions.

(1)

9 In every criminal case in the superior or district court, wherein the defendant (a) is convicted, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed 10 against the prosecuting witness, the following costs shall be assessed and collected, 11 except that when the judgment imposes an active prison sentence, costs shall be 12 assessed and collected only when the judgment specifically so provides, and that no 13 costs may be assessed when a case is dismissed. 14 For each arrest or personal service of criminal process, including

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- citations and subpoenas, the sum of five dollars (\$5.00), to be remitted to the county wherein the arrest was made or process was served, except that in those cases in which the arrest was made or process served by a law-enforcement officer employed by a municipality, the fee shall be paid to the municipality employing the officer.
- For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of 21 (2)22 six dollars (\$6.00) in the district court, including cases before a magistrate, and the sum of twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) in superior 23 court, to be remitted to the county in which the judgment is rendered. 24

1 In all cases where the judgment is rendered in facilities provided by a 2 municipality, the facilities fee shall be paid to the municipality. Funds 3 derived from the facilities fees shall be used exclusively by the county or municipality for providing, maintaining, and constructing adequate 4 5 courtroom and related judicial facilities, including: adequate space and 6 furniture for judges, district attorneys, public defenders, magistrates, 7 juries, and other court related personnel; office space, furniture and 8 vaults for the clerk; jail and juvenile detention facilities; free parking 9 for jurors; and a law library (including books) if one has heretofore 10 been established or if the governing body hereafter decides to establish one. In the event the funds derived from the facilities fees exceed 11 12 what is needed for these purposes, the county or municipality may, 13 with the approval of the Administrative Officer of the Courts as to the 14 amount, use any or all of the excess to retire outstanding indebtedness 15 incurred in the construction of the facilities, or to reimburse the county 16 or municipality for funds expended in constructing or renovating the 17 facilities (without incurring any indebtedness) within a period of two 18 years before or after the date a district court is established in such 19 county, or to supplement the operations of the General Court of Justice 20 in the county. 21 (3) For the retirement and insurance benefits of both State and local 22 government law-enforcement officers, the sum of seven dollars and twenty-five cents (\$7.25), to be remitted to the State Treasurer. Fifty 23 24 cents (50¢) of this sum shall be administered as is provided in Article 25 12C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. Five dollars and seventyfive cents (\$5.75) of this sum shall be administered as is provided in 26 27 Article 12E of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, with one dollar and 28 twenty-five cents (\$1.25) being administered in accordance with the

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General Statutes.
(3a) For the supplemental pension benefits of sheriffs, the sum of seventy-five cents (75¢), to be remitted to the Department of Justice and administered under the provisions of Article 12G of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

provisions of G.S. 143-166.50(e). One dollar (\$1.00) of this sum shall

be administered as is provided in Article 12F of Chapter 143 of the

- (4) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of forty-one dollars (\$41.00) in the district court, including cases before a magistrate, and the sum of forty-eight dollars (\$48.00) in the superior court, to be remitted to the State Treasurer.
- 40 (5) For using pretrial release services, the district or superior court judge
 41 shall, upon conviction, impose a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to be
 42 remitted to the county providing the pretrial release services. This cost
 43 shall be assessed and collected only if the defendant had been accepted

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	and released to the supervision of the agency providing the pretria
	release services.
(6)	For support of the General Court of Justice, for the issuance by the
(0)	clerk of a report to the Division of Motor Vehicles pursuant to G.S. 20-
	24.2, the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00), to be remitted to the State
	Treasurer. Upon a showing to the court that the defendant failed to
	appear because of an error or omission of a judicial official, a
	prosecutor, or a law-enforcement officer, the court shall waive this fee.
<u>(7)</u>	For rewards to be paid out by local Crime Stoppers, Inc., or
	CrimeStoppers, Inc., programs, the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), to be
	remitted to the State Treasurer. None of these funds may be used for
	administrative expenses.
(a1) The costs assessed pursuant to subsection (a) may also be collected by clerks	
of court for charges in which a party elects to pay the court's costs to satisfy the	
requirements of G.S. 20-7.2. Costs collected pursuant to this subsection shall be	
allocated in the same manner as other costs collected pursuant to this section. If a party	
elects to pay the costs of court to satisfy the requirements of G.S. 20-7.2 and is	
subsequently adjudged guilty of the same charge by the court, he shall not be required to	
pay the costs of court again for that charge, but he is subject to any other orders of the	
court, including an order to pay a fine.	
(b) On appeal, costs are cumulative, and costs assessed before a magistrate shall	
be added to costs assessed in the district court, and costs assessed in the district court	
shall be added to costs assessed in the superior court, except that the fee for the Law-	
Enforcement Officers' Benefit and Retirement Fund and the Sheriffs' Supplemental	
Pension Fund and the fee for pretrial release services shall be assessed only once in each	
case. No superior court costs shall be assessed against a defendant who gives notice of	
appeal from the district court but withdraws it prior to the expiration of the 10-day	
period for entering notice of appeal. When a case is reversed on appeal, the defendant	
shall not be liable for costs, and the State shall be liable for the cost of printing records	
and briefs in the Appellate Division.	
(c) Witness fees, expenses for blood tests and comparisons incurred by G.S. 8-	
50.1(a), jail fees and cost of necessary trial transcripts shall be assessed as provided by	
law in addition to other costs set out in this section. Nothing in this section shall limit the newer or discretion of the judge in imposing fines or forfaitures or ordering	
the power or discretion of the judge in imposing fines or forfeitures or ordering	
restitution	

- 35 restitution.
- (d) In any criminal case in which the liability for costs, fines, restitution, or any
 other lawful charge has been finally determined, the clerk of superior court shall, unless
 otherwise ordered by the presiding judge, disburse such funds when paid in accordance
 with the following priorities:
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- (1) Costs due the county;(2) Costs due the city;
- (3) Fines to the county school fund;
- (4) Sums in restitution prorated among the persons entitled thereto;
 - (5) Costs due the State;

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1	(5a) <u>Sums collected for the local Crime Stoppers, Inc., or CrimeStoppers</u> ,		
2	Inc., programs to be paid out by those programs as reward money; and		
3	(6) Attorney's fees.		
4	Sums in restitution received by the clerk of superior court shall be disbursed when:		
5	(1) Complete restitution has been received; or		
6	(2) When, in the opinion of the clerk, additional payments in restriction		
7	will not be collected; or		
8	(3) Upon the request of the person or persons entitled thereto; and		
9	(4) In any event, at least once each calendar year.		
10	(e) Unless otherwise provided by law, the costs assessed pursuant to this section		
11	for criminal actions disposed of in the district court are also applicable to infractions		
12	disposed of in the district court. The costs assessed in superior court for criminal		
13	actions appealed from district court to superior court are also applicable to infractions		
14	appealed to superior court. If an infraction is disposed of in the superior court pursuant		
15	to G.S. 7A-271(d), costs applicable to the original charge are applicable to the		
16	infraction.		
17	(f) The costs assessed to be used as reward money by the local programs of		
18	Crime Stoppers, Inc., or CrimeStoppers, Inc., shall be remitted quarterly by the clerk to		
19	the State Treasurer for disbursement to local Crime Stoppers, Inc., and CrimeStoppers,		
20	Inc., programs. If a jurisdiction does not have a local Crime Stoppers, Inc., or		
21	CrimeStoppers, Inc., program, the sums collected for support of Crime Stoppers, Inc., or		
22	CrimeStoppers, Inc., shall be paid to the General Fund."		
23	Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1994.		
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