

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 890

Short Title: DWI Processing Court.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 23, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR DWI PROCESSING COURTS IN AREAS OF
2 THE STATE THAT HAVE A LARGE BACKLOG OF DWI CASES.
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated the sum of three hundred thousand
6 dollars (\$300,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to the Administrative Office of the
7 Courts for the establishment of short-term DWI processing courts to be used in areas of
8 the State with a large backlog of DWI cases. The number of DWI cases pending in each
9 judicial district shall be reviewed, and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall
10 determine where short-term DWI processing courts would have the most effect and the
11 length of time a DWI processing court might be necessary to relieve the backlog of that
12 district. Up to three short-term DWI processing courts may be in operation at any given
13 time. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall place the short-term DWI
14 processing courts in the locations determined most appropriate initially. When the
15 backlog of a particular area has been resolved, the Administrative Office of the Courts
16 shall cease operation of the processing court in that district and establish another
17 short-term DWI processing court in another district with a backlog. The funds
18 appropriated by this act may be used to pay for the personnel costs of operating the
19 short-term DWI processing courts. The prosecutor assigned to each DWI processing
20 court shall be experienced in the prosecution of DWI offenses and shall have experience
21 prosecuting in the judicial district where the DWI processing court is established.

22 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report to the Chairs of the
23 Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees and the Chairs of the
24 Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and
25 Public Safety by March 1, 2006, on the implementation of the short-term DWI
26 processing courts provided for in this section.

27 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.