

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2619*

Short Title: Judicial Department Independence. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blue; Avila, Faison, Harrison, and Samuelson.

Referred to: Judiciary II, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 28, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REFLECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
IN STATE BUDGET OPERATIONS, TO AUTHORIZE THE JUDICIAL
DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT POSITION MANAGEMENT TO ALLOW FOR
THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT OVERALL OPERATION OF THE
COURTS, AND TO ENSURE THE FISCAL INTEGRITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 143C-1-2(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Reversions. – Unless otherwise provided by law, at the end of the fiscal year the unexpended, unencumbered balance of an appropriation reverts to the fund from which the appropriation was made; except that (i) an appropriation to the General Assembly shall not revert unless otherwise provided by the Legislative Services Commission, (ii) an appropriation to the Judicial Department shall not revert unless otherwise provided by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or the Director of Indigent Defense Services, as applicable, (iii) an appropriation for a capital improvement project shall revert as provided by G.S. 143C-8-11, and ~~(iii)~~ (iv) an appropriation for the implementation of information technology (IT) projects shall not revert until the project is implemented or abandoned."

SECTION 2. G.S. 143C-6-4 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e1) Overexpenditures in the Judicial Department budget. – The Chief Justice may approve expenditures for more than was authorized in the enacted budget for objects or line items in the budget of the Judicial Department."

SECTION 3. Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 29B.

"Position Management.

"§ 7A-360. Position management.

1 After consultation with, and upon the advice of, the State Judicial Council, the
2 Director may establish and abolish, and allocate and reallocate, all personnel positions
3 within the Judicial Department so as best to meet the personnel needs of all Judicial
4 Department hiring authorities and of the Administrative Office of the Courts and to
5 assure the most effective and efficient overall operation of the Judicial Department. This
6 authority is subject to the following limitations:

- 7 (1) The authority does not apply to the following positions:
8 a. Justices and judges of the General Court of Justice;
9 b. The Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the
10 Courts provided for in G.S. 7A-340 and G.S. 7A-342;
11 c. Clerks of superior court provided for in G.S. 7A-100;
12 d. District attorneys provided for in G.S. 7A-60;
13 e. The Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Court of
14 Appeals, the Supreme Court Librarian, the Supreme Court
15 Marshall, the Appellate Reporters, and the Assistant Director of
16 the Administrative Office of the Courts;
17 f. The executive directors of the Judicial Standards Commission,
18 the Conference of District Attorneys, and the Sentencing and
19 Policy Advisory Commission; or
20 g. Positions provided for in Article 39B of this Chapter (Indigent
21 Defense) or otherwise funded from the Indigent Persons'
22 Attorneys' Fees Fund;
- 23 (2) Positions for assistant and deputy clerks of superior court, magistrates,
24 judicial support staff, assistant district attorneys, and prosecutorial
25 support staff shall be allocated among the counties of the State
26 according to the formula developed under G.S. 7A-343(2a);
- 27 (3) The magistrate positions for each county shall not be fewer than the
28 minimum number specified for the county in G.S. 7A-133(c); and
- 29 (4) The assistant district attorney positions for a prosecutorial district shall
30 not be fewer than the minimum number specified for the district in
31 G.S. 7A-60.

32 **"§ 7A-361. Report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental**
33 **Operations.**

34 On or before October 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Joint
35 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations a detailed report of all
36 expenditures made and other actions taken under this Article for the fiscal year ending
37 June 30 of that year."

38 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7A-343 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 7A-343. Duties of Director.**

40 The Director is the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and the Director's duties
41 include all of the following:

- 42 (1) Collect and compile statistical data and other information on the
43 judicial and financial operation of the courts and on the operation of
44 other offices directly related to and serving the courts.

- 1 (2) Determine the state of the dockets and evaluate the practices and
2 procedures of the courts, and make recommendations concerning the
3 number of ~~judges, judges and~~ district attorneys, ~~and magistrates~~
4 attorneys required for the efficient administration of justice.
- 5 (2a) After consultation with, and on the advice of, the State Judicial
6 Council, develop a workload-based methodology for the allocation of
7 assistant and deputy clerks of superior court and magistrates among
8 the counties of the State, for the allocation of assistant district
9 attorneys among the prosecutorial districts of the State, and for the
10 allocation of judicial support staff and prosecutorial support staff. In
11 developing this methodology, the Director may take into
12 consideration, among other things, prior personnel levels, growth in
13 caseload volume and composition, population, the effect of technology
14 on personnel needs, recommendations of appropriate State and
15 national organizations and agencies specializing in determining the
16 personnel needs of courts, and other relevant factors.
- 17 (2b) Establish and abolish, and allocate and reallocate, personnel positions
18 within the Judicial Department.
- 19 (3) Prescribe uniform administrative and business methods, systems,
20 forms and records to be used in the offices of the clerks of superior
21 court.
- 22 (4) Prepare and submit budget estimates of State appropriations necessary
23 for the maintenance and operation of the Judicial Department, and
24 authorize expenditures from funds appropriated for these purposes.
- 25 (4a) After consultation with, and on the advice of, the State Judicial
26 Council, authorize expenditures from funds appropriated for the
27 maintenance and operation of the Judicial Department, including
28 specifying the uses, within the Judicial Department budget, of funds
29 that remain available for expenditure at the end of each fiscal year
30 under G.S. 143C-1-2(b), or revert such funds under G.S. 143C-1-2(b).
- 31 (5) Investigate, make recommendations concerning, and assist in the
32 securing of adequate physical accommodations for the General Court
33 of Justice.
- 34 (6) Procure, distribute, exchange, transfer, ~~and assign~~ assign and reassign
35 such equipment, books, forms and supplies as are to be acquired with
36 State funds for the General Court of Justice.
- 37 (7) Make recommendations for the improvement of the operations of the
38 Judicial Department.
- 39 (8) Prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the Judicial
40 Department to the Chief Justice, and transmit a copy to each member
41 of the General Assembly.
- 42 (9) Assist the Chief Justice in performing his duties relating to the transfer
43 of district court judges for temporary or specialized duty.

- 1 (9a) Establish and operate systems and services that provide for electronic
2 filing in the court system and further provide electronic transaction
3 processing and access to court information systems pursuant to
4 G.S. 7A-343.2.
- 5 (9b) Enter into contracts with one or more private vendors to provide for
6 the payment of fines, fees, and costs due to the court by credit, charge,
7 or debit cards; such contracts may provide for the assessment of a
8 convenience or transaction fee by the vendor to cover the costs of
9 providing this service.
- 10 (9c) Prescribe policies and procedures for the appointment and payment of
11 foreign language interpreters in those cases specified in
12 G.S. 7A-314(f). These policies and procedures shall be applied
13 uniformly throughout the General Court of Justice. After consultation
14 with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations,
15 the Director may also convert contractual foreign language interpreter
16 positions to permanent State positions when the Director determines
17 that it is more cost-effective to do so.
- 18 (9d) Analyze the use of contractual positions in the Judicial Department
19 and, after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on
20 Governmental Operations, convert contractual positions to permanent
21 State positions when the Director determines it is in the best interests
22 of the Judicial Department to do so.
- 23 (10) Perform such additional duties and exercise such additional powers as
24 may be prescribed by statute or assigned by the Chief Justice."

25 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 7A-409.1(a) reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 7A-409.1. Duties of the State Judicial Council.**

- 27 (a) The State Judicial Council shall:
- 28 (1) Study the judicial system and report periodically to the Chief Justice
29 on its findings;
- 30 (2) Advise the Chief Justice on priorities for funding;
- 31 (3) Review and advise the Chief Justice on the budget prepared by the
32 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for submission to
33 the General Assembly;
- 34 (4) Study and recommend to the General Assembly the salaries of justices
35 and judges;
- 36 (5) Recommend to the General Assembly changes in the expense
37 allowances, benefits, and other compensation for judicial officials;
38 bills to implement such recommendations shall have the same status
39 for introduction in the General Assembly as bills recommended by the
40 Courts Commission;
- 41 (6) Recommend the creation of ~~judgeships; and judgeships;~~
- 42 (6a) Consult with the Director on, and advise the Director in, the
43 performance of the Director's duties under G.S. 7A-343(2a) and
44 G.S. 7A-343(4a); and

(7) Advise or assist the Chief Justice, as requested, on any other matter concerning the operation of the courts."

SECTION 6. G.S. 7A-7 reads as rewritten:

"§ 7A-7. Law clerks; secretaries and stenographers.

(a) Each justice and judge of the appellate division is entitled to the services of ~~not more than two~~ research assistants, who must be graduates of an accredited law school. ~~The salaries of research assistants shall be set by the Administrative Officer of the Courts, subject to the approval of the Supreme Court.~~

(b) The Administrative Officer of the Courts shall determine the number and salaries of all ~~secretaries~~ secretaries, research assistants, and stenographers in the appellate ~~division~~ division, as provided in Article 29A of this Chapter, and subject to the approval of the Supreme Court."

SECTION 7. G.S. 7A-44.1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) ~~Each senior resident superior court judge may appoint a judicial secretary to serve at his pleasure and under his direction the secretarial and clerical needs of the superior court judges of the district or set of districts as defined by G.S. 7A-41.1(a) for which he is the senior resident superior court judge. The appointment may be full or part time and the compensation and allowances of such secretary shall be fixed by the senior regular resident superior court judge, within limits determined by the Administrative Office of the Courts, and paid by the State. Senior resident superior court judges may employ judicial secretaries when positions for them are established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the number and compensation of the judicial secretaries for each district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a).~~"

SECTION 8. G.S. 7A-60(a1) reads as rewritten:

"(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district has the counties and at least the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following table: ~~table.~~ The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may establish additional assistant district attorney positions for a prosecutorial district, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter.

Prosecutorial District	Counties	No. of Full-Time Asst. District Attorneys
1	Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans	11
2	Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington	7
3A	Pitt	11
3B	Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	12
4	Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson	18
5	New Hanover, Pender	17

1	6A	Halifax	5
2	6B	Bertie, Hertford,	6
3		Northampton	
4	7	Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson	18
5	8	Greene, Lenoir, Wayne	14
6	9	Franklin, Granville,	12
7		Vance, Warren	
8	9A	Person, Caswell	5
9	10	Wake	39
10	11	Harnett, Johnston, Lee	17
11	12	Cumberland	22
12	13	Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus	13
13	14	Durham	16
14	15A	Alamance	10
15	15B	Orange, Chatham	10
16	16A	Scotland, Hoke	6
17	16B	Robeson	13
18	17A	Rockingham	6
19	17B	Stokes, Surry	7
20	18	Guilford	31
21	19A	Cabarrus	9
22	19B	Montgomery, Randolph	9
23	19C	Rowan	7
24	19D	Moore	5
25	20A	Anson, Richmond,	11
26		Stanly	
27	20B	Union	9
28	21	Forsyth	24
29	22	Alexander, Davidson, Davie,	20
30		Iredell	
31	23	Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes,	8
32		Yadkin	
33	24	Avery, Madison, Mitchell,	7
34		Watauga, Yancey	
35	25	Burke, Caldwell, Catawba	18
36	26	Mecklenburg	53
37	27A	Gaston	14
38	27B	Cleveland,	10
39		Lincoln	
40	28	Buncombe	13
41	29A	McDowell, Rutherford	7
42	29B	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania	8
43	30	Cherokee, Clay, Graham,	11
44		Haywood, Jackson, Macon,	

1 Swain."

2 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 7A-68(a) reads as rewritten:

3 "(a) Each district attorney shall be entitled to at least one administrative assistant
4 to be appointed by the district attorney and to serve at his pleasure. The Director of the
5 Administrative Office of the Courts shall determine the number and salaries of the
6 administrative assistants for each district attorney, as provided in Article 29B of this
7 Chapter. The An administrative assistant need not be an attorney licensed to practice
8 law in the State of North Carolina."

9 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 7A-69 reads as rewritten:

10 "**§ 7A-69. Investigatorial assistants.**

11 ~~The district attorney in prosecutorial districts 1, 3B, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15A,~~
12 ~~15B, 16A, 18, 19B, 20A, 20B, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27A, 27B, 28, 29A, 29B, and 30 is~~
13 ~~entitled to one investigatorial assistant, and the district attorney in prosecutorial district~~
14 ~~10 is entitled to two investigatorial assistants, to be appointed by the district attorney~~
15 ~~and to serve at his pleasure. District attorneys may employ investigative assistants,~~
16 ~~when positions for them are created by the Director of the Administrative Office of the~~
17 ~~Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the~~
18 ~~number and salaries of the investigative assistants for each district attorney.~~

19 It shall be the duty of the investigatorial assistant to investigate cases preparatory to
20 trial and to perform such other Duties as may be assigned by the district attorney. The
21 investigatorial assistant is entitled to reimbursement for his subsistence and travel
22 expenses to the same extent as State employees generally."

23 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 7A-95(e) reads as rewritten:

24 "~~(e) Appointment of a reporter or reporters for superior court proceedings in each~~
25 ~~district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall be made by the senior~~
26 ~~regular resident superior court judge of that district or set of districts. The compensation~~
27 ~~and allowances of reporters in each such district or set of districts shall be fixed by the~~
28 ~~senior regular resident superior court judge, within limits determined by the~~
29 ~~Administrative Officer of the Courts, and paid by the State. Senior resident superior~~
30 ~~court judges may employ official court reporters when positions for them are~~
31 ~~established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as provided in~~
32 ~~Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the number and compensation~~
33 ~~of the official court reporters for each district or set of districts as defined in~~
34 ~~G.S. 7A-41.1(a). Each official court reporter shall be appointed by the senior resident~~
35 ~~superior court judge and shall serve at the judge's pleasure. An official court reporter~~
36 ~~shall record and transcribe superior court proceedings in the district or set of districts for~~
37 ~~which appointed, may be assigned by the Director to record and transcribe proceedings~~
38 ~~in other districts or sets of districts, and shall perform other official duties assigned by~~
39 ~~the senior resident superior court judge.~~"

40 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 7A-102(a) reads as rewritten:

41 "(a) The numbers and salaries of assistant clerks, deputy clerks, and other
42 employees in the office of each clerk of superior court shall be determined by the
43 Administrative Officer of the Courts as provided in Article 29 of this Chapter, after
44 consultation with the clerk concerned. All personnel in the clerk's office are employees

1 of the State. The clerk appoints the assistants, deputies, and other employees in the
 2 clerk's office to serve at his or her pleasure. Assistant and deputy clerks shall take the
 3 oath of office prescribed for clerks of superior court, conformed to the office of assistant
 4 or deputy clerk, as the case may be. Except as provided by subsection (c2) of this
 5 section, the job classifications and related salaries of each employee within the office of
 6 each superior court clerk shall be subject to the approval of the Administrative Officer
 7 of the Courts after consultation with each clerk concerned and shall be subject to the
 8 availability of funds appropriated for that purpose by the General Assembly."

9 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 7A-133(c) reads as rewritten:

10 "(c) Each county shall have ~~the numbers of magistrates and at least the number of~~
 11 magistrates, and the additional seats of district court, as set forth in the following table:
 12 table. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may establish additional
 13 magistrate positions for a county, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter.

County	Magistrates Min.	Additional Seats of Court
Camden	3	
Chowan	3	
Currituck	4	
Dare	6	
Gates	2	
Pasquotank	5	
Perquimans	3	
Martin	4	
Beaufort	5.05	
Tyrrell	3	
Hyde	3.5	
Washington	4	
Pitt	10.5	Farmville Ayden
Craven	10	Havelock
Pamlico	3	
Carteret	9	
Sampson	7	
Duplin	8	
Jones	2	
Onslow	11	
New Hanover	11	
Pender	4.8	
Halifax	12	Roanoke Rapids, Scotland Neck
Northampton	5.25	

1	Bertie	5	
2	Hertford	6	
3	Nash	9	Rocky Mount
4	Edgecombe	7	Rocky Mount
5	Wilson	7	
6	Wayne	9	Mount Olive
7	Greene	4	
8	Lenoir	7	La Grange
9	Granville	7	
10	Vance	6	
11	Warren	3.5	
12	Franklin	7	
13	Person	4	
14	Caswell	4	
15	Wake	18.5	Apex,
16			Wendell, Fuquay-
17			Varina,
18			Wake Forest
19	Harnett	10	Dunn
20	Johnston	11	Benson,
21			Clayton,
22			Selma
23	Lee	5.5	
24	Cumberland	19	
25	Bladen	5	
26	Brunswick	9	
27	Columbus	9.5	Tabor City
28	Durham	13	
29	Alamance	12	Burlington
30	Orange	9	Chapel Hill
31	Chatham	6	Siler City
32	Scotland	5	
33	Hoke	5	
34	Robeson	15	Fairmont,
35			Maxton,
36			Pembroke,
37			Red Springs,
38			Rowland,
39			St. Pauls
40	Rockingham	9	Reidsville,
41			Eden,
42			Madison
43	Stokes	5	
44	Surry	9	Mt. Airy

1	Guilford	24.4	High Point
2	Cabarrus	9	Kannapolis
3	Montgomery	5	
4	Randolph	10	Liberty
5	Rowan	9	
6	Stanly	6	
7	Union	7	
8	Anson	5	
9	Richmond	6	Hamlet
10	Moore	6.5	Southern
11			Pines
12	Forsyth	15	Kernersville
13	Alexander	4	
14	Davidson	10	Thomasville
15	Davie	4	
16	Iredell	9	Mooresville
17	Alleghany	2	
18	Ashe	4	
19	Wilkes	6	
20	Yadkin	4	
21	Avery	4	
22	Madison	4	
23	Mitchell	4	
24	Watauga	5	
25	Yancey	3	
26	Burke	6.75	
27	Caldwell	7	
28	Catawba	10	Hickory
29	Mecklenburg	26.50	
30	Gaston	17	
31	Cleveland	8	
32	Lincoln	6	
33	Buncombe	15	
34	Henderson	6.5	
35	McDowell	4.5	
36	Polk	4	
37	Rutherford	7	
38	Transylvania	4	
39	Cherokee	4	
40	Clay	2	
41	Graham	2	
42	Haywood	6.75	Canton
43	Jackson	5	
44	Macon	3.5	

1 Swain 3.75"

2 SECTION 14. G.S. 7A-146 reads as rewritten:

3 "§ 7A-146. Administrative authority and duties of chief district judge.

4 (a) The chief district judge, subject to the general supervision of the Chief Justice
5 of the Supreme Court, has administrative supervision and authority over the operation
6 of the district courts and magistrates in his district. These powers and duties include, but
7 are not limited to, the following:

- 8 (1) Arranging schedules and assigning district judges for sessions of
9 district courts;
- 10 (2) Arranging or supervising the calendaring of noncriminal matters for
11 trial or hearing;
- 12 (3) Supervising the clerk of superior court in the discharge of the clerical
13 functions of the district court;
- 14 (4) Assigning matters to magistrates, and consistent with the salaries set
15 by the Administrative Officer of the Courts, prescribing times and
16 places at which magistrates shall be available for the performance of
17 their duties; however, the chief district judge may in writing delegate
18 his authority to prescribe times and places at which magistrates in a
19 particular county shall be available for the performance of their duties
20 to another district court judge or the clerk of the superior court, and the
21 person to whom such authority is delegated shall make monthly
22 reports to the chief district judge of the times and places actually
23 served by each magistrate; ~~and~~
- 24 (5) Making arrangements with proper authorities for the drawing of civil
25 court jury panels and determining which sessions of district court shall
26 be jury sessions;
- 27 (6) Arranging for the reporting of civil cases by court reporters or other
28 authorized means;
- 29 (7) Arranging sessions, to the extent practicable for the trial of specialized
30 cases, including traffic, domestic relations, and other types of cases,
31 and assigning district judges to preside over these sessions so as to
32 permit maximum practicable specialization by individual judges;
- 33 (8) Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c. 900, s.
34 118(b), effective July 15, 1992.
- 35 (9) Assigning magistrates during an emergency to temporary duty outside
36 the county of their residence but within that district; and, upon the
37 request of a chief district judge of an adjoining district and upon the
38 approval of the Administrative Officer of the Courts, to temporary
39 duty in the district of the requesting chief district judge; and
- 40 (10) Designating another district judge of his district as acting chief district
41 judge, to act during the absence or disability of the chief district judge.

42 (b) Chief district court judges may employ judicial secretaries when positions for
43 them are established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as
44 provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the number and

1 compensation of the judicial secretaries for each district or set of districts as defined in
2 G.S. 7A-133(b)."

3 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 7A-198(f) reads as rewritten:

4 "(f) ~~Appointment of a reporter or reporters for district court proceedings in each~~
5 ~~district court district shall be made by the chief district judge for that district. The~~
6 ~~compensation and allowances of reporters in each district shall be fixed by the chief~~
7 ~~district judge, within limits determined by the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and~~
8 ~~paid by the State. Chief district court judges may employ official court reporters when~~
9 ~~such positions are established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the~~
10 ~~Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the~~
11 ~~number and compensation of the official court reporters for each district or set of~~
12 ~~districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a). Each official court reporter shall be appointed by~~
13 ~~the chief district court judge and shall serve at the judge's pleasure. An official court~~
14 ~~reporter shall record and transcribe district court proceedings in the district or set of~~
15 ~~districts for which appointed, may be assigned by the Director to record and transcribe~~
16 ~~proceedings in other districts or sets of districts, and shall perform other official duties~~
17 ~~assigned by the chief district court judge.~~"

18 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 7A-347 reads as rewritten:

19 "**§ 7A-347. Assistants for administrative and victim and witness services.**

20 Assistant for administrative and victim and witness services positions are established
21 under the district attorneys' offices. Each prosecutorial district is allocated at least one
22 assistant for administrative and victim and witness services to be employed by the
23 district attorney. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall allocate
24 additional assistants to prosecutorial districts on the basis of need and within available
25 appropriations. determine the number of additional assistants for each prosecutorial
26 district and shall determine the salaries of all assistants, as provided in Article 29B of
27 this Chapter. Each district attorney may also use any volunteer or other personnel to
28 assist the assistant. The assistant is responsible for coordinating efforts of the
29 law-enforcement and judicial systems to assure that each victim and witness is provided
30 fair treatment under Article 45 of Chapter 15A, Fair Treatment for Victims and
31 Witnesses and shall also provide administrative and legal support to the district
32 attorney's office."

33 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 7A-355 reads as rewritten:

34 "**§ 7A-355. Trial court administrators.**

35 ~~The following districts or sets of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall have~~
36 ~~trial court administrators: Set of districts 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D; District 22 and District~~
37 ~~28, and such other districts or sets of districts as may be designated by the~~
38 ~~Administrative Office of the Courts. The office of trial court administrator is~~
39 ~~established. The superior court districts and sets of districts as defined in~~
40 ~~G.S. 7A-41.1(a) to be served by trial court administrators shall be determined by the~~
41 ~~Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this~~
42 ~~Chapter. A trial court administrator may employ supporting staff to assist in carrying~~
43 ~~out the trial court administrator's duties when such positions are established by the~~

1 Director pursuant to Article 29A of this Chapter. The salaries of the trial court
2 administrators and support staff shall be determined by the Director."

3 **SECTION 18.** G.S. 7A-377 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 "(e) The Commission may employ supporting staff to assist it in carrying out its
5 duties when such positions are established by the Director of the Administrative Office
6 of the Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The salaries of the executive
7 secretary and other supporting staff shall be determined by the Director."

8 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 7A-414 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 7A-414. Executive ~~Secretary;~~ secretary; clerical support.**

10 The Conference may employ an executive ~~secretary and any necessary supporting~~
11 staff to assist it in carrying out its duties. ~~secretary.~~ The Conference may employ
12 supporting staff to assist it in carrying out its duties when such positions are established
13 by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as provided in Article 29B of
14 this Chapter. The salaries of the executive secretary and other supporting staff shall be
15 determined by the Director."

16 **SECTION 20.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.