

S.L. 2018-5 AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

Justice and Public Safety Budget Highlights

The Conference Report provides net appropriations of \$2.8 billion for the State's four judicial and public safety agencies, a 2.2% increase above the amount enacted for FY 2017-18. Highlights of the Conference Committee and other legislative actions in Justice and Public Safety follow below:

Department of Public Safety (DPS): Adjustments to Appropriations

- **(Page E 8, Item 8)** Provides funding for hardware and software upgrades to the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER), the statewide radio system used by the State Highway Patrol and other first responders across North Carolina: **\$16.5 million.**
- **(Page E 9, Item 9)** Provides funding for additional technology to enhance prison safety and security: **\$15 million.**
- **(Page E 9, Item 11)** Provides funding for Court Services to implement Raise the Age legislation: **\$1.9 million and 65 FTE.**
- **(Page E 9, Item 13 and Page E 12, Item 15)** Provides funding for the disaster recovery efforts related to Emergency Management's hazard mitigation and risk management programs, as well as federal match: **\$30.5 million in the General Fund and \$14.5 million in special funds.** (Total disaster recovery appropriation in all areas is \$60 million.)

Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 16.1, Page 144)** Provides funds to Samarcand Training Academy for a school safety simulator, to the NC Sheriffs' Association for a statewide sex offender database, and to the Governor's Crime Commission for body-worn camera grants in rural parts of the State.
- **(Sec. 16B.1, Page 147)** Directs DPS to gather additional information on the VIPER system, including contributions made to the system by local governments and overall user satisfaction.
- **(Sec. 16C.2, Page 148)** Requires DPS to report quarterly on the implementation of the recommendations of the National Institute of Corrections report, facility safety infrastructure improvements, and policy and procedure modifications, including disciplinary policies, security audits, and prison staffing.

Department of Justice (DOJ): Adjustments to Appropriations

- **(Page E 17, Item 21)** Provides funding for a second firearm instructor to be housed at the Western Justice Academy in Edneyville: **\$95,345 and 1 FTE.**

Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 17.1, Page 149)** Creates the Criminal Justice Fellows Program to provide forgivable loans to exceptional individuals to increase the number of criminal justice professionals.

Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS): Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 18A.2, Page 153)** Creates a new Public Defender District in McDowell and Rutherford Counties and expands the Public Defender District in District 3B from Carteret County into Pamlico and Craven Counties.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC): Adjustments to Appropriations

- **(Page E 27, Item 31)** Provides funding to begin a multi-year project that will create an integrated e-Courts technology system: **\$1.5 million.**

Special Provisions

- **(Sec. 18B.2, Page 155)** Directs the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (SPAC), the Sheriffs' Association, and DPS to study the most effective setting to house and provide appropriate treatment services for certain Driving While Impaired offenders.
- **(Sec. 18B.3, Page 156)** Directs SPAC to study available bed space in local jails for sheriffs participating in the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program.
- **(Sec. 18B.4, Page 156 - as amended by S.L. 2018-97, Sec. 5.5)** Creates a funding mechanism for AOC to build a balance over time to support the e-Courts technology project.
- **(Sec. 18B.5, Page 156)** Transfers a superior court judgeship from District 17A (Rockingham and Caswell) to District 19B (Randolph and Montgomery) and eliminates a superior court judgeship in District 17B (Surry and Stokes).
- **(Sec. 18B.6, Page 159)** Transfers an assistant district attorney position from Prosecutorial District 22 (Rockingham and Caswell) to Prosecutorial District 10 (Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren).