

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1997**

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**SENATE BILL 1339**

Short Title: Guilford Teen Court.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Martin of Guilford, Blust; and Shaw of Guilford.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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May 27, 1998

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A TEEN COURT PROGRAM  
IN GUILFORD COUNTY.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. (a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal year to develop and implement a Teen Court program in District Court District 18, Guilford County.

(b) The Teen Court program in Guilford County shall be developed after consideration of, and shall be modeled after, the teen court programs established pursuant to Section 80 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws and Section 40 of Chapter 24 of the Session Laws of the 1994 Extra Session. Specifically, the program shall:

- (1) Establish fair and equitable procedures for hearing cases of juveniles under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in the district pursuant to G.S. 7A-523 who are alleged to be (i) undisciplined or (ii) delinquent for an offense that would constitute an infraction or misdemeanor if committed by an adult. The procedures shall provide for "trial" and "sentencing" of teens by a jury of the juveniles' peers. Courts, district attorneys, law enforcement, school personnel, and Juvenile Intake Services may refer cases to the teen court programs;

- 1           (2) Provide community resources and dispositional alternatives for  
2 juveniles adjudicated undisciplined or delinquent, including counseling,  
3 victim financial restitution, substance abuse assessment and treatment,  
4 and community service, through collaboration among the courts, local  
5 law enforcement, the schools, and community agencies and programs;  
6           (3) Provide life skills and conflict resolution training for middle and high  
7 school students in coordination with the local school administrative  
8 units and housing authorities; and  
9           (4) Educate and provide guidance for juveniles by involving them in all  
10 aspects of the judicial system and by allowing them to take an active  
11 role in the administration of justice in the courts and the mediation of  
12 school disputes.

13           (c) The program established pursuant to this section shall report on a monthly  
14 basis to the Administrative Office of the Courts on the expenditures and operations of the  
15 program. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall evaluate the effectiveness of the  
16 program and report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative  
17 Commission on Governmental Operations and to the Chairs of the House and Senate  
18 Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by April 15, 1999.

19           Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.