

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021**

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HOUSE BILL 775

Short Title: Fund Law Enforcement/Detention/Corrections. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McNeill, Faircloth, Boles, and C. Smith (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 4, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, DETENTION, AND
CORRECTIONS RECRUITMENT AND OTHER NEEDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to be used to lease additional office space.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, seven hundred sixteen thousand twenty-three dollars (\$716,023) in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to be used to hire nine full-time administrative support positions.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, two hundred thirty-three thousand forty dollars (\$233,040) in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to be used to hire two full-time sworn law enforcement officer positions.

SECTION 4.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Governor's Crime Commission within the Department of Public Safety the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to provide competitive grants to the State Highway Patrol, county law enforcement agencies, and municipal law enforcement agencies that have at least a ten percent (10%) vacancy rate in sworn law enforcement officer positions. The grants shall be used to provide signing bonuses of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to newly hired law enforcement officers that sign a contract to work for three years with the law enforcement agency. In its contract, a law enforcement agency shall require the repayment of the signing bonus at the time of a law enforcement officer's voluntary departure from the agency, prorated based upon the percentage of time remaining in the three-year contract. No repayment shall be required when a law enforcement officer's employment is terminated.

SECTION 4.(b) Guidelines. – The Governor's Crime Commission shall develop guidelines and procedures for the administration and distribution of grants under this section that shall at a minimum include the following:

- (1) No law enforcement agency shall receive grant funds in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
- (2) No law enforcement agency shall use grant funds to add more law enforcement officer positions to the law enforcement agency but shall use



1 grant funds to fill vacant law enforcement officer positions existing at the law
2 enforcement agency.

3 **SECTION 5.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Governor's
4 Crime Commission within the Department of Public Safety the sum of two million dollars
5 (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to provide competitive grants
6 to local confinement facilities as defined by G.S. 153A-217 that have at least a ten percent (10%)
7 vacancy rate in certified detention officer positions. The grants shall be used to provide signing
8 bonuses of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to newly hired certified detention officers that sign a
9 contract to work for three years with the local confinement facility. In its contract, a local
10 confinement facility shall require the repayment of the signing bonus at the time of a certified
11 detention officer's voluntary departure from the agency, prorated based upon the percentage of
12 time remaining in the three-year contract. No repayment shall be required when a certified
13 detention officer's employment is terminated.

14 **SECTION 5.(b)** Guidelines. – The Governor's Crime Commission shall develop
15 guidelines and procedures for the administration and distribution of grants under this section that
16 shall at a minimum include the following:

- 17 (1) No local confinement facility shall receive grant funds in excess of one
18 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
- 19 (2) No local confinement facility shall use grant funds to add more certified
20 detention officer positions to the local confinement facility but shall use grant
21 funds to fill vacant certified detention officer positions existing at the local
22 confinement facility.

23 **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Governor's Crime
24 Commission the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be used
25 to implement and manage the grants distributed pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of this act.

26 **SECTION 7.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
27 Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, the sum of two million dollars
28 (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be used to provide signing
29 bonuses of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to newly hired certified correctional officers that sign
30 a contract to work for three years within the State prison system. In its contract, the Division of
31 Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice shall require the repayment of the signing bonus at the time
32 of a certified correctional officer's voluntary departure from the State prison system, prorated
33 based upon the percentage of time remaining in the three-year contract. No repayment shall be
34 required when a certified correctional officer's employment is terminated.

35 **SECTION 8.** If House Bill 607, 2021 Regular Session, becomes law, there is
36 appropriated from the General Fund to the State Bureau of Investigation the sum of two hundred
37 thousand dollars (\$200,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be used to
38 implement the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Record of Arrest and Prosecution Background
39 (Rap Back) Service.

40 **SECTION 9.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.