

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

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**SENATE BILL 289**

Short Title: Create New Public Defender District 22A. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Sawyer (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 13, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICT TO SERVE ALEXANDER  
AND IREDELL COUNTIES AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-498.7(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The following counties of the State are organized into the defender districts listed below, and in each of those defender districts an office of public defender is established:

<b>Defender District</b>	<b>Counties</b>
1	Camden, Chowan, Currituck,
2	Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans
3	Beaufort, Hyde, Martin,
4	Tyrell, Washington
5	Pitt
6	Craven, Pamlico, Carteret
7	New Hanover, Pender
8	Wake
9	Cumberland
10	Durham
11	Orange, Chatham
12	Scotland, Hoke
13	Robeson
14	Guilford
15	Forsyth
16	<u>Alexander, Iredell</u>
17	Mecklenburg
18	Gaston
19	Cleveland, Lincoln
20	Buncombe
21	McDowell, Rutherford
22	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania

After notice to, and consultation with, the affected district bar, senior resident superior court judge, and chief district court judge, the Commission on Indigent Defense Services may recommend to the General Assembly that a district or regional public defender office be



1 established. A legislative act is required in order to establish a new office or to abolish an existing  
2 office."

3           **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Indigent  
4 Defense Services the sum of one million seventy-one thousand two hundred eleven dollars  
5 (\$1,071,211) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to be used to create 20 new  
6 positions for Public Defender District 22A created in Section 1 of this act. These positions shall  
7 include a chief public defender, up to 12 assistant public defenders, and up to seven support  
8 positions.

9           **SECTION 3.** For the same purposes found in Section 2 of this act, the Office of  
10 Indigent Defense Services may use up to the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars  
11 (\$1,500,000) of funds available in the Private Assigned Counsel Fund.

12           **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.