

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 1080

Short Title: Public Safety Reinvestment Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Reives, Helfrich, Logan, and Rubin (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

April 29, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT AND DEPUTY CLERKS OF COURT IN WAKE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTIES, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SALARY INCREASES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SALARY INCREASES FOR MEMBERS OF THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC TRANSIT SAFETY BY MAKING TRAUMA KITS AVAILABLE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND IMPROVING FARE ENFORCEMENT AND ANTI-FARE-DODGING MEASURES, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND THE STATE CRIME LABORATORY, AND TO ENHANCE THE BENEFITS OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that chronic and historic underfunding and workforce instability in critical State institutions have contributed to a public safety crisis where courts and jail systems are overburdened, weakening timely responses and increasing the risk of harm to the public, victims, and frontline personnel; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds that high-volume judicial districts require sufficient clerk and prosecutorial capacity to ensure the timely administration of justice and maintain public confidence in the courts; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds that safe and reliable operations in correctional institutions, juvenile justice facilities, law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories, and public transportation systems depend upon the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel and the modernization of critical safety infrastructure; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds that targeted investments in staffing, compensation, workplace safety, and operational modernization are necessary to restore capacity and strengthen public safety outcomes statewide; Now, therefore, The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PUBLIC TRANSIT SAFETY MODERNIZATION**

**SECTION 1.(a)** Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 136-44.28. Emergency trauma kits and first aid training.**

**(a) All public transportation operators receiving State funds, including any metropolitan transit authority, regional transit authority, or municipal transit system operating bus, rail, light**



1 rail, commuter rail, streetcar, or other fixed-route public transportation services within this State,  
2 shall equip every revenue service vehicle, including each bus and each individual train car, with  
3 an emergency trauma response kit.

4 (b) Each emergency trauma response kit shall include, at minimum, all of the following  
5 items:

6 (1) Commercially manufactured tourniquets.

7 (2) Hemostatic dressings.

8 (3) Pressure bandages.

9 (4) Trauma shears.

10 (5) Protective gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment.

11 (6) Any additional lifesaving supplies recommended by the Department of Health  
12 and Human Services in consultation with the Department of Public Safety.

13 (c) All operators and supervisory personnel employed by a public transportation system  
14 shall complete emergency first aid and bleeding control training consistent with nationally  
15 recognized standards, including training in the proper use of tourniquets and trauma response  
16 kits. Such training shall be completed within six months of hire and refreshed at least once every  
17 two years. An employee who renders emergency aid in good faith pursuant to this section shall  
18 be afforded the protections of G.S. 90-21.14.

19 (d) The Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Department  
20 of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety, shall adopt minimum implementation  
21 standards to ensure consistency across public transportation systems."

22 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is amended by  
23 adding a new section to read:

24 **"§ 136-44.29. Fare enforcement and anti-fare-dodging measures.**

25 (a) All public transportation operators receiving State funds shall implement reasonable  
26 and effective measures to deter and prevent fare evasion. Such measures shall include all of the  
27 following:

28 (1) Installation and use of physical access control systems, including turnstiles or  
29 gated entry systems where operationally and structurally practicable based on  
30 facility design.

31 (2) Use of electronic validation systems, including barcode scanners, mobile  
32 ticket validation, or contactless fare verification technology.

33 (3) In-person fare inspection programs, including uniformed or plainclothes fare  
34 inspectors.

35 (4) Randomized fare verification protocols.

36 (5) Any other technology or enforcement practice determined appropriate by the  
37 governing board of the transit authority.

38 (b) Each public transportation operator shall adopt written fare enforcement policies that  
39 balance revenue protection, public safety, and equitable enforcement and shall make such  
40 policies publicly available."

41 **SECTION 1.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
42 Transportation the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the  
43 2026-2027 fiscal year to implement the provisions of G.S. 136-44.28 and G.S. 136-44.29, as  
44 enacted in this section. Funds appropriated in this section shall be distributed by the Department  
45 of Transportation to public transportation operators receiving State funds through a  
46 formula-based allocation consistent with existing public transportation funding formulas  
47 administered by the Department. Funds may be used for:

48 (1) Purchase and installation of emergency trauma response kits.

49 (2) Training of transit personnel in first aid and bleeding control.

50 (3) Capital expenditures associated with fare enforcement modernization,  
51 including access control systems and electronic fare validation technology.

1 (4) Associated implementation and compliance costs.

2 **SECTION 1.(d)** Beginning no later than December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter,  
3 each public transportation operator receiving State funds shall submit a report to the Joint  
4 Legislative Oversight Committee on Transportation, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
5 on Justice and Public Safety, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include, at  
6 minimum:

7 (1) Estimated fare evasion rates for the preceding fiscal year.

8 (2) Total fare revenue collected.

9 (3) Estimated revenue losses attributable to fare evasion.

10 (4) A description of anti-fare-dodging measures in place.

11 (5) Enforcement actions taken, including citations or warnings issued.

12 (6) Capital investments made to deter fare evasion.

13 (7) Any safety incidents involving public transportation personnel or passengers.

14 The Department of Transportation shall compile and publish a statewide summary  
15 report aggregating data from all reporting transit authorities. No later than December 1, 2027, the  
16 Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Transportation, the Joint  
17 Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Fiscal Research Division  
18 on the use of funds appropriated under this section, including the amounts distributed to each  
19 transit authority, the categories of expenditures, and the status of statewide compliance with the  
20 provisions of this section.

21 **SECTION 1.(e)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2026.

## 22 **COURT SYSTEM STAFFING FOR WAKE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTIES**

23 **SECTION 2.(a)** Beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, there is appropriated from  
24 the General Fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) the sum of thirty million  
25 dollars (\$30,000,000) in recurring funds to be used to hire in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties  
26 assistant and deputy clerk of court positions. The AOC shall determine the appropriate allocation  
27 of positions between the counties and, no later than 60 days after the allocation, provide a report  
28 to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Fiscal Research  
29 Division on (i) the number of positions allocated to each county and (ii) the reasoning used in  
30 determining those numbers.

31 **SECTION 2.(b)** Beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, there is appropriated from  
32 the General Fund to the AOC, Budget Fund 100072, the sum of thirty million dollars  
33 (\$30,000,000) in recurring funds to be used to hire in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties assistant  
34 district attorney positions. Notwithstanding G.S. 7A-60, the AOC shall determine the appropriate  
35 allocation of positions between the counties and, no later than 60 days after the allocation,  
36 provide a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and  
37 the Fiscal Research Division on (i) the number of positions allocated to each county and (ii) the  
38 reasoning used in determining those numbers.

39 **SECTION 2.(c)** No later than July 1, 2027, the Department of Health and Human  
40 Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services,  
41 in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts, shall provide a report to the Joint  
42 Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Oversight  
43 Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division on the status of the  
44 appropriation contained in this section, including (i) cost-savings to the court system, (ii)  
45 reductions in case loads, (iii) reductions in the State's incarcerated population, and (iv) any  
46 impacts on recidivism. An updated report shall be provided no later than December 1, 2027, and  
47 annually thereafter.

## 48 **FUNDING FOR SALARY INCREASES AND WORKPLACE SAFETY** 49 **IMPROVEMENTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION**

1           **SECTION 3.** Beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the  
 2 General Fund to the Department of Adult Correction (DAC) the sum of two hundred fifty million  
 3 dollars (\$250,000,000) in recurring funds to be used for (i) salary increases for employees of the  
 4 DAC to align with current market rates and attract and retain qualified employees and (ii) costs  
 5 incurred from improving workplace safety. For any funds used for salary increases, the DAC  
 6 shall determine how to allocate the funds appropriated in this section and, no later than 60 days  
 7 after the allocation, provide a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and  
 8 Public Safety and the Fiscal Research Division on (i) the positions receiving a salary increase,  
 9 (ii) the amount of the salary increase for each position, and (iii) rationale for each salary increase  
 10 provided.

11  
 12 **PROVIDE COMPENSATION INCREASES TO MEMBERS OF THE STATE**  
 13 **HIGHWAY PATROL**

14           **SECTION 4.(a)** Effective July 1, 2025, there is appropriated from the General Fund  
 15 to the Reserve for Compensation Increases to provide pay raises for the State Highway Patrol &  
 16 Law Enforcement Support Staff the sum of forty million four hundred eighty-two thousand four  
 17 hundred eighty dollars (\$40,482,480) in each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to establish  
 18 the pay scales set forth in this section.

19           **SECTION 4.(b)** Effective July 1, 2025, the law enforcement officers of the State  
 20 Highway Patrol shall be paid based upon the following experience-based annual salary schedule:

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>2025-2027 Biennium</u>
0	\$56,000
1	\$62,125
2	\$68,250
3	\$75,375
4	\$80,500
5	\$86,625
6	\$92,750
7	\$98,875
8+	\$105,000

31           **SECTION 4.(c)** Effective July 1, 2025, sworn State Highway Patrol employees who  
 32 are not subject to an experience-based annual salary schedule shall be paid at the following rates  
 33 by rank:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>2025-2027 Biennium</u>
Sergeant	\$120,750
First Sergeant	\$132,825
Lieutenant	\$146,108
Captain	\$160,718
Major	\$176,790
Lieutenant Colonel	\$194,469
Deputy Commander	\$204,193
Colonel	\$224,612

44 **JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM SUPPORT AND STAFFING**

45           **SECTION 5.** Beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the  
 46 General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
 47 Prevention (JJDP), the sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in recurring funds to  
 48 address staffing shortfalls and stabilize juvenile facility operations and juvenile court services,  
 49 including recruitment and retention initiatives for hard-to-fill positions, experience-based salary  
 50 schedule implementation or other compensation adjustments for frontline and supervisory  
 51 classifications, training and onboarding capacity, and temporary staffing measures necessary to

1 maintain safe staffing coverage while vacancies are filled. The JJDP shall report to the Joint  
2 Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Fiscal Research Division, and  
3 the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees no later than  
4 March 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, on the use of funds and outcomes, including vacancy  
5 rates, turnover, time-to-hire, and overtime hours.

## 6 7 **STATE CRIME LAB WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS**

8 **SECTION 6.** Beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the  
9 General Fund to the Department of Justice, the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in  
10 recurring funds to support the State Crime Laboratory in recruiting and retaining qualified  
11 personnel in a competitive labor market, including salary adjustments, targeted recruitment and  
12 retention incentives for hard-to-fill positions, and related workforce supports necessary to  
13 maintain timely and reliable forensic services. The Department shall report to the Fiscal Research  
14 Division and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by March  
15 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, on the use of funds and outcomes, including vacancy rates,  
16 turnover, time-to-hire, and turnaround times for major casework disciplines.

## 17 18 **ENHANCE THE BENEFITS OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS** 19 **OF THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

20 **SECTION 7.(a)** G.S. 135-1 reads as rewritten:

### 21 **"§ 135-1. Definitions.**

22 The following words and phrases as used in this Chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly  
23 required by the context, shall have the following meanings:

24 ...

25 (7e) "Correctional officer" means an employee of an employer who is certified as  
26 a State criminal justice officer under the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter  
27 17C of the General Statutes.

28 ...

29 (11c) "Law-Enforcement Officer" means a full-time paid employee of an employer  
30 who is actively serving in a position with assigned primary duties and  
31 responsibilities for prevention and detection of crime or the general  
32 enforcement of the criminal laws of the State of North Carolina or serving  
33 civil processes, and who possesses the power of arrest by virtue of an oath  
34 administered under the authority of the State. "Law-Enforcement Officer" also  
35 means ~~a~~all of the following:

36 a. A probation/parole officer as defined in this section with respect to any  
37 service rendered on or after July 1, 2017.

38 b. A correctional officer, as defined in this section, with respect to any  
39 service rendered on or after July 1, 2026.

40 ...."

41 **SECTION 7.(b)** G.S. 143-166.41 reads as rewritten:

### 42 **"§ 143-166.41. Special separation allowance options for State law enforcement officers.**

43 ...

44 (b) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

45 (1) Allowance. – The annual special separation allowance for State law  
46 enforcement officers provided for under this section.

47 (1a) Correctional officer. – As defined in G.S. 135-1.

48 (2) Creditable service. – The service for which credit is allowed under the  
49 retirement system of which the officer is a member.

50 (3) Law enforcement officer. – As defined in either G.S. 135-1 or  
51 G.S. 143-166.30(a).

1 (4) Officer. – A law enforcement officer.  
2 (5) Probation/parole officer. – As defined in G.S. 135-1.  
3 (b1) Eligibility for Allowance and Calculation of Allowance Amount. – To be eligible for  
4 an allowance under this section, an officer is required to meet one of the following sets of criteria  
5 that shall also determine the allowance amount:

6 (1) For officers meeting all of the following criteria, the annual special separation  
7 allowance to be paid is equal to eighty-five hundredths percent (0.85%) of the  
8 annual base rate of compensation most recently applicable to the officer for  
9 each year of that officer's creditable service:

- 10 a. The officer (i) has completed 30 or more years of creditable service or  
11 (ii) is 55 years of age or older and completed five or more years of  
12 creditable service.  
13 b. The officer is less than 62 years of age.  
14 c. The officer has completed at least five years of continuous service as  
15 a law enforcement officer immediately preceding the officer's service  
16 retirement. Any break in this required continuous service that is a  
17 result of disability retirement or disability salary continuation benefits  
18 shall not adversely affect an officer's qualification to receive an  
19 allowance under this subdivision so long as the officer returned to  
20 service within 45 days after the disability benefits had ceased and is  
21 otherwise qualified to receive the allowance.  
22 d. At least fifty percent (50%) of the officer's creditable service ~~is as~~  
23 meets one or more of the following:  
24 1. The service is as a law enforcement officer, or for officer.  
25 2. For service prior to July 1, 2017, the service is as a  
26 probation/parole officer.  
27 3. For service prior to July 1, 2026, the service is as a correctional  
28 officer.

29 (2) For officers meeting all of the following criteria, the annual special separation  
30 allowance to be paid is equal to eighty-five hundredths percent (0.85%) of the  
31 annual equivalent of the base rate of compensation at the time the officer  
32 attained 30 years of service multiplied by 30:

- 33 a. Prior to attaining 62 years of age, the officer has completed 30 or more  
34 years of creditable service, at least fifty percent (50%) of ~~which was~~  
35 the officer's creditable service met one or more of the following:  
36 1. The service was as a law enforcement officer, or for officer.  
37 2. For service prior to July 1, 2017, the service was as a  
38 probation/parole officer.  
39 3. For service prior to July 1, 2026, the service was as a  
40 correctional officer.  
41 b. The officer has completed at least five years of continuous service as  
42 a law enforcement officer immediately preceding the officer's service  
43 retirement. Any break in this required continuous service that is a  
44 result of disability retirement or disability salary continuation benefits  
45 shall not adversely affect an officer's qualification to receive an  
46 allowance under this subdivision so long as the officer returned to  
47 service within 45 days after the disability benefits had ceased and is  
48 otherwise qualified to receive the allowance.

49 If an officer meets all of the criteria under each subdivision of this subsection, then the  
50 employer making the allowance payments shall allow the officer to choose which of the two  
51 calculation formulas to use for that officer's allowance. This election by the officer is a one-time,

1 irrevocable election and shall be made prior to the first allowance payment. If no election is made  
2 by the officer, then the calculation amount under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be used.  
3 ...."

4 **SECTION 7.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
5 State Treasurer the sum of eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) in recurring funds beginning in  
6 the 2026-2027 fiscal year for the purposes of providing the enhanced benefits under this section.

7 **SECTION 7.(d)** This section is effective July 1, 2026.

8  
9 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

10 **SECTION 8.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
11 law.