

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

**SESSION LAW 2007-393  
SENATE BILL 1130**

AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT DEFENDANTS MUST HAVE ACCESS TO THE COMPLETE FILES OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT, TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE STATE BUDGET ACT AS IT APPLIES TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH, TO ADD A NEW DUTY TO THE DIRECTOR'S POWERS AND DUTIES, TO MODIFY OR REPEAL CERTAIN STATUTES RELATED TO DRUG TREATMENT COURTS, TO MAKE CLARIFYING CHANGES FOR CONTINUING TRAINING FOR MAGISTRATES, TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM ALLOWING JURORS TO WAIVE PAYMENT OF PER DIEM FEES AND DESIGNATE FEES FOR OTHER SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 15A-903(a)(1) reads as rewritten:

"(1) Make available to the defendant the complete files of all law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies involved in the investigation of the crimes committed or the prosecution of the defendant. The term "file" includes the defendant's statements, the codefendants' statements, witness statements, investigating officers' notes, results of tests and examinations, or any other matter or evidence obtained during the investigation of the offenses alleged to have been committed by the defendant. The term "prosecutorial agency" includes any public or private entity that obtains information on behalf of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor in connection with the investigation of the crimes committed or the prosecution of the defendant. Oral statements shall be in written or recorded form. The defendant shall have the right to inspect and copy or photograph any materials contained therein and, under appropriate safeguards, to inspect, examine, and test any physical evidence or sample contained therein."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 143C-1-1(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to every State ~~agency~~ agency, unless specifically exempted herein, and to every non-State entity that receives or expends any State funds. No State agency or non-State entity shall expend any State funds except in accordance with an act of appropriation and the requirements of this Chapter. The provisions of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes shall continue to apply to the General Assembly and to control its expenditures and in the event of a conflict with this Chapter, the provisions of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes shall control. Nothing in this Chapter abrogates or diminishes the inherent power of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch."

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 143C-3-2 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143C-3-2. Budget estimate for the judicial branch.**

The Administrative Officer of the Courts shall give the Director an estimate of the financial needs of the judicial branch for the upcoming fiscal period in accordance with the schedule prescribed by the Director. The estimates for the judiciary shall be approved and certified by the Chief Justice. The estimates shall be itemized in accordance with the accounting classifications adopted by the Controller. The Director shall include these estimates for the judicial branch in the budget the Director submits to

the General Assembly. The Director may recommend changes to these estimates in the budget ~~submitted~~ the Director submits to the General Assembly."

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 143C-3-5(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Budget Proposals. – The Governor shall present ~~budget recommendations~~ recommendations, consistent with G.S. 143C-3-1, 143C-3-2, and 143C-3-3 to each regular session of the General Assembly at a mutually agreeable time to be fixed by joint resolution."

**SECTION 5.** G.S. 143C-4-6(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Increase in Size Limitation. – To the extent that any percent increase in appropriations for a fiscal year for (i) Medicaid, (ii) operation of prisons, or (iii) operation of the courts or (iii)(iv) the costs of providing health insurance for teachers and State employees, exceeds the percent increase in State personal income growth for the same period, the limitation on the size of the General Fund operating budget provided in subsection (a) of this section for that fiscal year shall be increased by the dollar amount represented by the excess percentage. For all subsequent fiscal years, the percent limitation contained in subsection (a) shall then be increased to reflect that dollar adjustment."

**SECTION 6.** G.S. 143C-6-2(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Revenue Collections. – The Director, with the assistance of the Secretary of Revenue and other officials collecting or receiving appropriated State revenue, shall continuously survey the revenue collections. If the Director finds that revenues to any fund, when added to the beginning unreserved fund balance in that fund, will be insufficient to support appropriations from that fund, the Director shall immediately notify the General Assembly that a deficit is anticipated. The Director shall consult with the Chief Justice to identify expenditure reductions and other lawful measures the Chief Justice and Judicial Branch can implement to reduce expenditures. The Director shall report in a timely manner to the General Assembly a plan containing the expenditure reductions and other lawful measures as the Director is implementing in order to avert the deficit."

**SECTION 9.** G.S. 143C-7-1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Report to Director. – A State ~~agency~~ agency, other than the judicial branch, that submits to the federal government or to any other party an application for funds that will be subject to this Chapter shall first provide to the Director a copy of the application along with any related information the Director may require. The judicial branch shall provide the Director with a copy of the application and any related information after making the application."

**SECTION 10.** G.S. 143C-10-3(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) ~~State Officer~~ Officers or Employee Employees of the Executive Branch. – The Governor may suspend from the performance of his or her duties any State officer or ~~employee~~ employee of the executive branch except an officer elected by the people, who persists, after notice and warning, in failing or refusing to comply with the provisions of this Chapter or any lawful administrative directive issued pursuant to this Chapter. Before acting to suspend, the Governor shall give the accused notice and an opportunity to be heard in his or her own defense. The Governor shall report the facts leading to suspension to the Attorney General who may initiate appropriate criminal or civil proceedings. The Governor may apply to the General Court of Justice for a restraining order and injunction if a suspended officer or employee persists in performing official acts."

**SECTION 11.** G.S. 7A-343 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 7A-343. Duties of Director.**

The Director is the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and ~~his~~ the Director's duties include all of the following:

- (1) Collect and compile statistical data and other information on the judicial and financial operation of the courts and on the operation of other offices directly related to and serving the ~~courts;~~ courts.

- (2) Determine the state of the dockets and evaluate the practices and procedures of the courts, and make recommendations concerning the number of judges, district attorneys, and magistrates required for the efficient administration of ~~justice;~~ justice.
- (3) Prescribe uniform administrative and business methods, systems, forms and records to be used in the offices of the clerks of superior ~~court;~~ court.
- (4) Prepare and submit budget estimates of State appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the Judicial Department, and authorize expenditures from funds appropriated for these ~~purposes;~~ purposes.
- (5) Investigate, make recommendations concerning, and assist in the securing of adequate physical accommodations for the General Court of ~~Justice;~~ Justice.
- (6) Procure, distribute, exchange, transfer, and assign such equipment, books, forms and supplies as are to be acquired with State funds for the General Court of ~~Justice;~~ Justice.
- (7) Make recommendations for the improvement of the operations of the ~~Judicial Department;~~ Department.
- (8) Prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the Judicial Department to the Chief Justice, and transmit a copy to each member of the General ~~Assembly;~~ Assembly.
- (9) Assist the Chief Justice in performing his duties relating to the transfer of district court judges for temporary or specialized ~~duty;~~ duty.
- (9a) Establish and operate systems and services that provide for electronic filing in the court system and further provide electronic transaction processing and access to court information systems pursuant to ~~G.S. 7A-343.2; and~~ G.S. 7A-343.2.
- (9b) Enter into contracts with one or more private vendors to provide for the payment of fines, fees, and costs due to the court by credit, charge, or debit cards; such contracts may provide for the assessment of a convenience or transaction fee by the vendor to cover the costs of providing this ~~service;~~ service.
- (9c) Prescribe policies and procedures for the appointment and payment of foreign language interpreters in those cases specified in G.S. 7A-314(f). These policies and procedures shall be applied uniformly throughout the General Court of Justice. After consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Director may also convert contractual foreign language interpreter positions to permanent State positions when the Director determines that it is more cost-effective to do ~~so;~~ so.
- (9d) Analyze the use of contractual positions in the Judicial Department and, after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, convert contractual positions to permanent State positions when the Director determines it is in the best interests of the Judicial Department to do so.
- (10) Perform such additional duties and exercise such additional powers as may be prescribed by statute or assigned by the Chief Justice."

**SECTION 12.** G.S. 7A-794 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 7A-794. Fund administration.**

The Drug Treatment Court Program Fund is created in the Administrative Office of the Courts and is administered by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts in consultation with the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee. ~~The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall award grants from this Fund and implement local drug treatment court programs. Grants shall be awarded based~~

~~upon the general guidelines set forth by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee."~~

**SECTION 13.** G.S. 7A-798 is repealed.

**SECTION 14.** G.S. 7A-801 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 7A-801. ~~Plan for evaluation.~~ Monitoring and annual report.**

~~The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop a statewide model and conduct ongoing evaluations of~~ monitor all State-recognized and funded local drug treatment court programs. A report of these evaluations shall be submitted ~~courts,~~ prepare an annual report on the implementation, operation, and effectiveness of the statewide drug treatment court program, and submit the report to the General Assembly by March 1 of each year. Each local drug treatment court program shall submit evaluation reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts as requested."

**SECTION 15.** G.S. 7A-177(b) reads as rewritten:

~~"(b) Training~~ In addition to the basic training course required in subsection (a) of this section, continuing education courses shall be provided at such times and locations as necessary to assure that they are conveniently available to all magistrates without extensive travel to other parts of the State. Courses shall be provided in Asheville for the magistrates from the western region of the State."

**SECTION 16.** G.S. 7A-312 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 7A-312. Uniform fees for jurors; meals.**

(a) A juror in the General Court of Justice including a petit juror, or a coroner's juror, but excluding a grand juror, shall receive twelve dollars (\$12.00) for the first day of service and twenty dollars (\$20.00) per day afterwards, except that if any person serves as a juror for more than five days in any 24-month period, the juror shall receive forty dollars (\$40.00) per day for each day of service in excess of five days. A grand juror shall receive twenty dollars (\$20.00) per day. A juror required to remain overnight at the site of the trial shall be furnished adequate accommodations and subsistence. If required by the presiding judge to remain in a body during the trial of a case, meals shall be furnished the jurors during the period of sequestration. Jurors from out of the county summoned to sit on a special venire shall receive mileage at the same rate as State employees.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Administrative Office of the Courts may select a judicial district to operate a pilot program in which a juror may waive payment of the per diem fees provided for in that subsection. A juror waiving the fee may designate that the fee be used for any of the following services, if such services are provided in the district: (i) client treatment and service programs associated with a drug treatment or DWI treatment court program; (ii) courthouse self-help centers; (iii) courthouse child care centers; (iv) legal aid programs operated by a nonprofit corporation operating within the district; and (v) the Crime Victims Compensation Fund. If no such services are provided within the district, then waived fees are transferred to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund."

**SECTION 15.** Sections 1 through 14 and Section 16 of this act become effective October 1, 2007. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2007.

s/ Charlie S. Dannelly  
Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved 2:40 a.m. this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007