



Legislative Update

Week of June 21, 2021

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

As expected, the Senate budget was finally released last Monday. After being publicly released, it passed in both the appropriations and finance committees, respectively. The \$52.3 billion spending plan was then approved by the full Senate, following votes held during the Thursday and Friday sessions.

The Senate budget now heads to the House of Representatives, which will review the proposal during the next several weeks and release its own version sometime next month. Prognosticators believe the House budget will be completed sometime mid- to late July. In the meantime, the Fiscal Research Division will provide a presentation on the Senate budget to the House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety on Wednesday.

The following summarizes appropriations provided in Senate Bill 105, *2021 Appropriations Act*, to DPS agencies:

DEPARTMENT-WIDE

- *Salary Increases* - Provides funding for a salary increase of 1.5% effective July 1, 2021, and an additional salary increase of 1.5% effective July 1, 2022. State agency teachers would be paid according to the teacher salary schedule.
- *One-time Bonus* - Provides a \$1,000 bonus for full-time State employees and local education employees, regardless of funding source. Also provides an additional \$500 bonus for full-time State employees with an annual salary of less than \$75,000; law enforcement officers; and employees in the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice with job duties requiring frequent in-person contact.

ADMINISTRATION

- *Offender Population Unified System (OPUS) Migration* - Provides \$1.8 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to improve system security and accessibility of inmate information by transferring data currently stored on mainframe servers to cloud storage.
- *Grants for Local Reentry Councils* – Provides \$400,000 non-recurring in each year of the biennium for grants to local reentry councils to meet increase demand.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Alcohol Law Enforcement

- *Equipment* - Provides \$179,130 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to equip agents for responding to excessive civil disturbances and related events.
- *Lease Space and Office Staff* - Provides \$557,647 recurring in each year of the biennium for office space leases. In addition, nine administrative staff positions are funded at \$716,023 recurring in each year of the biennium to facilitate the full separation of the agency from the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI).

State Capitol Police

- *Equipment* - Provides \$394,512 non-recurring in FY 2022-23 to equip officers for responding to excessive civil disturbances and related events.

State Highway Patrol

- *Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System* - Provides \$11.1 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for modernizing the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This system provides automated recordkeeping, dispatch information, and other support for Troopers in the line of duty.
- *Equipment* - Provides \$2.75 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to equip Troopers for responding to excessive civil disturbances and related events.
- *Training Sustainability* – Provides \$2 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to support the increased number of cadets entering Highway Patrol Basic School. Funds will support training operations, new equipment, uniforms, vehicles, and safety gear for new Troopers.
- *Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs)* - Provides \$1.54 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to enable Troopers to carry AEDs in their vehicles to assist motorists and other individuals they may encounter in the line of duty.
- *VIPER* - Provides \$19.325 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to update equipment necessary to operate the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) system.

State Bureau of Investigation

- *Equipment* - Provides \$2.475 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$900,000 non-recurring in FY 2022-23, for equipment and IT needs.
- *Human Trafficking Enforcement* - Provides \$518,776 recurring in each year of the biennium for four sworn law enforcement positions to increase the SBI's efforts combating human trafficking in North Carolina.
- *Reduction of Law Enforcement Use of Deadly Force* – Provides \$159,417 non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$325,000 non-recurring in FY 2022-23, for implementing the Reduction of Law Enforcement Use of Deadly Force database.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- *Competitive Emergency Management Grants* - Provides \$2.8 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$4.4 million non-recurring in FY 2022-23, for a competitive grant program to provide county emergency management offices with needed resources for emergency and disaster support.
- *State Search and Rescue* - Provides \$2 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to support the State Search and Rescue program.
- *NC 2-1-1* - Provides \$562,000 non-recurring in each year of the biennium to support operations of the NC 2-1-1 program, operated by United Way of North Carolina. This hotline provides North Carolinians with information and access for disaster recovery programs.
- *FEMA Match Requirements* – Budgets \$20 million and \$30 million to be used for any FEMA State match requirements for past and future disaster declarations, respectively.

NC OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY (NCORR)

- *Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan* - Provides \$1 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) to contract for research needed to enhance North Carolina's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NATIONAL GUARD

- *Equipment and Programming* - Provides \$320,000 non-recurring in each year of the biennium for various purposes, including equipment for the National Guard Response Force, tracking devices, maintenance of facilities and programs, and State awards.
- *Cyber Security Response Force* - Provides \$1.2 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to support operations of the Cyber Security Response Force.
- *High-Frequency Radios* - Provides \$400,000 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the purchase of high-frequency radios.
- *NC Tuition Assistance Program* – Budgets \$2.1 million recurring in each year of the biennium for the transfer of the existing NC Tuition Assistance Program from the State Education Assistance Authority to the NCNG.
- *Tarheel ChalleNGe Positions* - Provides a net appropriation of \$541,758 in each year of the biennium for the National Guard Tarheel ChalleNGe Academies to support 37 new positions. These positions are needed to bring the State into compliance with federal staffing regulations. The State share of these positions is 25%.
- *Tarheel ChalleNGe Multipurpose Building* - Provides \$31,000 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy's Salemburg campus to complete renovations in and around a multipurpose building.

ADULT CORRECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Community Corrections

- *Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) Community Supervision Pilot* – For FY 2021-22, budgets \$6 million in receipts from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to expand the MAT Community Supervision pilot program to five tier one/tier two counties with the greatest need.
- *Treatment for Effective Community Supervision* – Provides \$1 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for community supervision programs, including short term housing, recidivism reduction services, and social programming for offenders reentering the community.

Juvenile Justice

- *Reentry to Resilience Transitional Support for Youth* – Provides \$500,000 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the Juvenile Justice Section to expand wraparound services for youth transitioning from Youth Development Centers into their communities.
- *Operating Costs for Additional Juvenile Detention Beds* – Provides \$2 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for addressing the expected increase in youth detention associated with Raise the Age legislation.
- *Establish a Separate Division of Juvenile Justice* - Provides \$989,511 recurring in FY 2022-23 to establish a separate Division of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Public Safety. The funding supports 7 positions necessary to operate as a standalone DPS division.

Prisons

- *Establish a Separate Department of Adult Correction* - Provides \$2 million recurring in FY 2022-23 to establish a separate Department of Adult Correction within the Governor's Cabinet. The funding will also support an additional 16 FTE necessary to operate the new department. The new department would include Prisons, ACDP (excluding DART-Cherry and Black Mountain facilities), Health Services, and Correction Enterprises.
- *Correctional Officer Salary Schedule* - Provides \$32.1 million recurring in each year of the biennium to implement a new experience-based salary schedule for Correctional Officers.
- *Certified Staff Salary Adjustments* - Provides \$5.2 million recurring in each year of the biennium to alleviate salary compression for certified staff not compensated pursuant to the Correctional Officer salary schedule.
- *Inmate Medical Deficits* - Provides \$50 million recurring and \$15 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to help address budget shortfalls related to inmate medical costs and other related budget deficiencies.
- *Long-Term Care Facility at Central Prison* - Provides a total of \$4.8 million in FY 2021-22, and \$7.2 million in FY 2022-23, for medical and custody positions to operate a long-term care facility at Central Prison for chronically ill inmates.
- *Prisons Capital Assessment* - Provides \$3.87 million non-recurring in FY 2022-23 to create a coordinated capital plan for prisons across the State. The plan will ensure that aging facilities and facilities that have been impacted by natural disasters are prioritized for repairs.
- *Prison Health Record Update*- Provides \$800,000 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for prisons to update electronic health records and connect to the Health Information Exchange, thus ensuring security and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance of inmate health records.
- *Prison Pharmacy Services* - Provides an additional \$2.27 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to help cover increases in prescription drug supplies. The revised net appropriation for prison pharmacy services is \$41,401,926 in each year of the biennium.
- *Critical Safety Improvements in Prison Facilities* - Provides \$2.75 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to increase the safety for staff and inmates at prison facilities through activities such as implementing mandown technology, increasing access to automated external defibrillators, replacing firearms, providing critical safety upgrades to facilities, and replacing metal bed springs.
- *Reentry Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) Pilot* – For FY 2021-22, budgets \$4.6 million in receipts from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to provide two years of funding to expand the Reentry MAT pilot program to nine minimum security prisons that are designated reentry facilities and do not currently participate in the program.

DPS Bills with Action this Week

(Note: Click on the bill title to view the most current version of the bill)

Division(s) Impacted	Sponsor(s)	Bill #	Short Title	Action
Alarms Board/PPSB	Davis	H 68	GSC Licensing Boards and Comm'ns/Rule Crimes.	6/23/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
NCNG	Szoka, Bradford, Bell, and Wheatley	H 83	Eliminate Income Tax for Military Retirees.	6/21/2021 Senate Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
JJ	Stevens	H 132	Juvenile Code Rev's/CIP Recommendations.-AB	6/23/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
EM	Kidwell, D. Hall, Bell, and Moffitt	H 264	Emergency Powers Accountability Act.	6/24/2021 Senate Re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
SBI	McNeill	H 312	Qualifications for Sheriff/Expunction.	6/23/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
ABC	Moffitt	H 693	Common Carrier ABC Permit.	6/21/2021 Senate Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
EM/Law Enforcement	Moore	H 805	Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder.	6/24/2021 Senate Re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

Department-Wide	B. Jackson, Harrington, and Hise	S 105	2021 Appropriations Act.	Passed the Senate 32-17
Law Enforcement	Britt, Daniel, and Lee	S 300	Criminal Justice Reform.	6/24/2021 House Re-ref to the Com on Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at Susanna.Davis@ncdps.gov.