



Legislative Update

Week of August 9, 2021

Roy Cooper, Governor

Casandra Skinner Hoekstra, Interim Secretary

As expected, the House released its comprehensive budget proposal Monday evening. The following day, the full House Appropriations committee held an all-day meeting to review the spending plan and consider amendments. Senate Bill 105, *2021 Appropriations Act*, was then brought to the House floor for votes on Wednesday and Thursday and was approved on both days by a vote of 72-41.

Over the next several weeks, the House and Senate will iron out their spending proposal differences behind closed doors in what is known as the conference process. Following these negotiations, a compromise budget bill will be finalized and then voted out and sent to the Governor, likely in early to mid-September.

The following summarizes appropriations provided to DPS agencies in the House budget proposal that was approved this week:

DEPARTMENT-WIDE

- *Salary Increases* - Provides funding for a salary increase of 2.5% effective July 1, 2021, and an additional salary increase of 2.5% effective July 1, 2022. State agency teachers would be paid according to the teacher salary schedule.
- *Premium Pay Bonuses* - Provides bonuses for full-time State employees who worked throughout the COVID-19 pandemic (continuously from March 10, 2020 through October 1, 2021), regardless of funding source. A \$500 bonus is provided to all eligible permanent, full-time employees. Two additional bonuses of \$1,000 and \$500 are provided to employees making less than \$75,000 and \$40,000, respectively. Law enforcement officers and employees in the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, with job duties requiring frequent in-person contacts are eligible to receive all three bonuses, regardless of salary level.

ADMINISTRATION

- *Criminal Justice Training and Standards Transfer* - Transfers the NC Justice Academy, the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, and the Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission from the Department of Justice to the Department of Public Safety.
- *Boxing Commission Transfer* - Budgets the transfer of receipts, one FTE, and operations of the NC Boxing Commission from the Department of Commerce to DPS. \$277,827 in each year of the biennium will support Commission operations, an Executive Director, and two program coordinators.
- *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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Alcohol Law Enforcement

- *Equipment* - Provides \$459,130 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to equip agents for responding to excessive civil disturbances and related events, and to purchase computers and other needed equipment.
- *Lease Space and Office Staff* - Provides \$557,647 recurring in each year of the biennium to ALE for office space leases, along with non-recurring funds to furnish those spaces. Also provides funding for 9 FTE administrative staff positions at an annualized cost of \$716,023 recurring. Positions would be effective January 1, 2022.

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.
- *Additional Positions* - Provides funding for 20 additional sworn officers and their equipment, effective January 1, 2022. Annualized recurring cost of \$1.45 million.

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 \$10.69 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$7.57 million non-recurring in FY 2022-23, to equip Troopers to respond to excessive civil disturbances and related events. Also includes support for the purchase of two personnel carriers and additional personal equipment.
- *Training Sustainability* – Provides \$700k non-recurring in FY 2022-23 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.
- *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

- *Aircraft* – Provides \$5.18 million for the purchase of an aircraft to assist in carrying out its duties.
- *Equipment* - Provides \$2 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for equipment and IT needs.
- *Human Trafficking Enforcement* - Provides \$259,388 recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$1.04 million recurring in FY 2022-23, for sworn law enforcement positions to increase the SBI's efforts to combat human trafficking in North Carolina. Positions would be effective January 1, 2022.
- *RapBack* - Provides \$200k non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's RapBack criminal database information program.
- *Electronic Concealed Carry Permits* - Provides \$250k recurring in each year of the biennium for the implementation of electronic concealed weapons permits.

- *Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce Incentive Grants* - Provides \$1.5 million non-recurring to the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association to establish a competitive grant program for local law enforcement to assist with costs related to working with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) in investigating internet crimes against children.

SAMARCAND TRAINING ACADEMY

- *Samarcand Deputy Director* – Provides recurring funding for a Deputy Director position at the Samarcand Training Academy.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- *Competitive Emergency Management Grants* – Provides \$3 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$5 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 recurring in each year of the biennium to support the State Search and Rescue program.
- *NC 2-1-1* – Provides \$500k and \$230k in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, respectively, 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 \$80 million and \$30 million to be used for any FEMA State match requirements for past and future disaster declarations, respectively.
- *Emergency Management Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund* – Budgets \$20 million for a new Disaster Relief and Mitigation special fund. This new Fund will provide grants to State agencies, units of local government, and non-profit corporations for flood mitigation efforts.
- *Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Funds* – Budgets \$20 million to create a new Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency special fund. This new Fund will provide grants to State agencies, units of local government, and non-profit corporations to facilitate transportation resilience against natural disasters.
- *Mobile Panic Alarms in Public Schools* - Provides \$4.9 million overall for the biennium to implement mobile panic alarm capability in all public K-12 and charter schools.

NC OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY (NCORR)

- *Resiliency Efforts* - Provides \$356,617 recurring in each year of the biennium for the Office's Resiliency Team to help local governments and state agencies incorporate resiliency efforts in their emergency response and disaster recovery planning. Funding would provide for three additional FTE positions.
- *Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan* – Budgets \$1 million in non-recurring receipts in FY 2021-22 to enhance North Carolina's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- *Flood Resiliency Blueprint* – Budgets \$20 million to develop a statewide Flood Resiliency Blueprint for major watersheds impacted by flooding.

- *Local Government Support* – Budgets \$10.1 million to assist communities and regional organizations plan for natural hazards, including grant funding for priority projects, a flood/natural hazards data portal, and improving local capacity building.
- *Local Projects* – Budgets \$68.7 million in FY 2021-22 for various local projects throughout the state.

NATIONAL GUARD

- *Equipment and Programming* – Provides \$160,000 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 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 \$2.11 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 \$31k 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

- *Certified Staff Salary Adjustments* – Provides \$5.2 million recurring in each year of the biennium to alleviate salary compression for certified staff of Adult Correction not compensated pursuant to the Correctional Officer salary schedule.

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 \$500k 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 \$1.36 million recurring in FY 2022-23 to establish a separate Division of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Public Safety. The funding supports 13 positions necessary to operate as a standalone DPS division.

Prisons

- *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.
- *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.
- *Inmate Litter Removal* – Transfers funds to DPS-Prisons, to enhance inmate litter removal services within the Misdemeanant Inmate Litter Crew Pilot Project.
- *Prison Health Record Update*- Provides \$300k 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 \$3.38 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to help cover increases in prescription drug supplies.
- *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.
- *Controlled Cell Services* - Provides \$35 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to implement technology designed to control cell service usage of authorized and unauthorized cellular and wireless devices within correctional facilities and manage inmate financial transactions.

STATE CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (SCIF)

- *National Guard Burke County Regional Readiness Center* - Provides \$3.25 million during the biennium for equipment and paving at the Burke County Regional Readiness Center
- *National Guard Guilford Regional Readiness Center* - Provides \$15.7 million for completion of the Guilford County Regional Readiness Center.
- *National Guard Nash County* - Provides \$9.5 million in the biennium for site planning, demolition, and preparation at the Fountain Correctional facility in Nash County.
- *National Guard Projects* - Provides \$8 million to match federal funds to be used to demolish, renovate, and construct facilities across the state.

- *Richmond Justice Detention Center* - Provides \$10.7 million to renovate and reopen the Richmond Regional Juvenile Detention Center to meet the projected juvenile justice needs associated with Raise the Age.
- *Safer Schools Training Academy* - Provides \$4.17 million for the purchase of a building in East Montgomery for the Safer Schools Training Academy.
- *Samarcand Live Fire Training Facility* - Provides \$1.83 million to purchase the Cochran land and construct a live fire training facility at the Samarcand Training Academy.
- *Samarcand Parking Lot* - Provides \$475,000 to install drainage and surface the parking lot at the Samarcand Training Academy.
- *SBI Headquarters* - Provides \$28.57 million in the biennium for a new headquarters and building 12 renovations. The total amount authorized for the project is \$81.6 million.
- *SHP Garner Road Armory* - Provides \$17.85 million in the biennium for a new state-of-the-art armory.
- *SHP Technical Services Building* - Provides \$7.14 million for a new technical services unit building.

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
Law Enforcement/ACJJ	K. Baker	H 436	<u>Support Law Enforcement Mental Health.</u>	8/10/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Judiciary
Law Enforcement	Szoka	H 536	<u>Law Enforcement Duty to Intervene.</u>	8/10/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
AC	K. Baker	H 608	<u>Dignity for Women Who are Incarcerated.</u>	8/10/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Judiciary
ALE	Torbett	H 801	<u>Game Nights/Residential Centers.</u>	8/12/2021 Senate Re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
EM/Law Enforcement	Moore	H 805	<u>Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder.</u>	8/9/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

Department-Wide	B. Jackson, Harrington, and Hise	S 105	<u>2021 Appropriations Act.</u>	8/12/2021 Senate Placed On Cal For 08/16/2021
SBI/ALE	Perry and Lowe	S 688	<u>Sports Wagering.</u>	8/10/2021 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at
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