

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1400

Short Title: Victim and Witness Assistants.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives R. Hunter; Baddour, Culpepper, Hardy, McCrary, Rayfield, and Sexton.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

May 21, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO RESTORE PROVISIONS THAT VICTIM AND WITNESS
2 ASSISTANTS SHALL ONLY PROVIDE SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
3 AND WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL CASES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 7A-347 reads as rewritten:

6 "~~§ 7A-347. Assistants for administrative and victim and witness services.~~ Victim
7 and witness assistants.

8 ~~Assistant for administrative and victim and witness services~~ Victim and witness assistant
9 positions are established under the district attorneys' offices. Each prosecutorial district is
10 allocated at least one ~~assistant for administrative and victim and witness services~~ victim and
11 witness assistant to be employed by the district attorney. The Administrative Office of the
12 Courts shall allocate additional assistants to prosecutorial districts on the basis of need
13 and within available appropriations. Each district attorney may also use any volunteer or
14 other personnel to assist the assistant. The assistant is responsible for coordinating efforts
15 of the law-enforcement and judicial systems to assure that each victim and witness is
16 provided fair treatment under Article 45 of Chapter 15A, Fair Treatment for Victims and
17 Witnesses and shall ~~also provide administrative and legal support to the district attorney's~~

1 ~~office. be used for no other purpose, except as may be approved pursuant to G.S. 7A-~~
2 ~~348."~~

3 Section 2. G.S. 7A-348 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 7A-348. Training and supervision of ~~assistants for administrative and victim and~~**
5 **~~witness services. victim and witness assistants.~~**

6 Pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 7A-413, the Conference of District Attorneys shall:

7 (1) Assist in establishing uniform statewide training for ~~assistants for~~
8 ~~administrative and victim and witness services; victim and witness services;~~

9 (2) Assist in the implementation and supervision of this program; and

10 (3) With the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, report
11 annually to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
12 Operations on the implementation and effectiveness of this act,
13 beginning on or before February 1, 1987."

14 Section 3. G.S. 15A-826 reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 15A-826. ~~Assistants for administrative and victim and witness services. Victim~~**
16 **~~and witness assistants.~~**

17 ~~In addition to providing administrative and legal support to the district attorney's~~
18 ~~office, assistants for administrative and victim and witness services~~ Victim and witness
19 assistants are responsible for coordinating efforts within the law-enforcement and judicial
20 systems to assure that each victim and witness is treated in accordance with this Article."

21 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.