

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

FILED SENATE
Apr 4, 2023
S.B. 538
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45252-NDa-95

Short Title: Law Enforcement Investment Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Batch, Garrett, and Applewhite (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND STANDARDS SURROUNDING LAW
3 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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6 **PART I. FUNDS FOR NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE ACADEMY**

7 **SECTION 1.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
8 Justice Academy the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in recurring funds for
9 the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be used to expand its ability to serve law enforcement agencies of
10 the State by providing more opportunities to attend courses and trainings.

11 **SECTION 1.2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
12 Justice Academy the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds
13 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be used to expand the Academy's ability to offer online courses
14 for law enforcement agencies to allow for greater statewide participation in Academy courses
15 and training.

16 **SECTION 1.3.** This Part becomes effective July 1, 2024.

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18 **PART II. CREATE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE**
19 **ACADEMY AND NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

20 **SECTION 2.1.** The North Carolina Justice Academy and the North Carolina
21 Community College System shall develop a memorandum of understanding to allow community
22 colleges throughout the State to provide training and education to those individuals trained and
23 educated by the North Carolina Justice Academy in order to alleviate travel time and related costs
24 incurred by law enforcement agencies due to the limited availability of North Carolina Justice
25 Academy training locations.

26 **SECTION 2.2.** The memorandum of understanding required by Section 2.1 of this
27 Part shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
28 no later than October 1, 2024.

29 **SECTION 2.3.** This Part is effective when it becomes law.

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31 **PART III. FUNDS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT**
32 **ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

33 **SECTION 3.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
34 Justice the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in recurring funds for the
35 2024-2025 fiscal year to be used to further develop, maintain, and staff the North Carolina Law
36 Enforcement Accreditation Program.



* D R S 4 5 2 5 2 - N D A - 9 5 *

1 (h1) Bachelor's Degree Recipient Obligations. – A recipient must become and remain a
 2 full-time student at a North Carolina college or university in a bachelor's degree and pursue
 3 continuous studies that will qualify the recipient to be employed in an eligible criminal justice
 4 profession upon graduation. The recipient must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA
 5 throughout the course of study and also maintain appropriate credit hours for each semester to
 6 obtain a bachelor's degree within four years. The recipient must also accept employment in an
 7 eligible county as a criminal justice professional for at least four out of five years following
 8 graduation. The Committee may adopt additional recipient obligations it deems appropriate.

9 (h2) Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Certificate of Completion Recipient
 10 Obligations. – A recipient must become and remain a trainee in a North Carolina Basic Law
 11 Enforcement Training Program and pursue continuous studies that will qualify the recipient to
 12 be employed in an eligible criminal justice profession upon completion of the Basic Law
 13 Enforcement Training Program. The recipient must maintain appropriate participation and test
 14 results required to obtain a Basic Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion
 15 within one year. The recipient must also accept employment in an eligible county as a criminal
 16 justice professional for at least four out of five years following graduation. The Committee may
 17 adopt additional recipient obligations it deems appropriate.

18 ...

19 **"§ 17C-23. Terms of forgivable loans; receipt and disbursement of funds; default.**

20 (a) Forgivable Loans. – All forgivable loans shall be evidenced by notes made payable
 21 to the Program that bear interest at a rate not to exceed ten percent (10%) per year as set by the
 22 Committee and beginning on the first day of September after the completion of the Program or
 23 60 days after termination of the forgivable loan, whichever is earlier. The forgivable loan may
 24 be terminated upon the recipient's withdrawal from ~~school,~~ a school or training program by the
 25 recipient's failure to meet the standards set by the Committee, or by the recipient's default based
 26 on conditions set by the Committee. The Committee may only disburse funds to the community
 27 ~~college~~ college, college, university, or Basic Law Enforcement Training Program where the
 28 recipient is enrolled and may not disburse funds directly to a recipient.

29 (b) Forgiveness. – The Committee shall forgive the loan and any interest accrued on the
 30 loan if, within five years after obtaining (i) an Applied Associate Degree in Criminal Justice or
 31 Committee-approved field of study, (ii) a bachelor's degree, or (iii) a Basic Law Enforcement
 32 Training Program certificate of completion, the recipient is employed on a full-time basis for a
 33 period of at least four years in an eligible county in an eligible criminal justice profession. The
 34 recipient shall provide the Committee within 60 days of completion of the Program verification
 35 of the recipient's intent to seek employment in an eligible criminal justice profession in an eligible
 36 county. The recipient shall provide verification of employment to the Committee each year until
 37 the obligation is satisfied. The Committee shall also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible
 38 for the recipient to meet the terms of the loan, after or before graduation, due to death or
 39 permanent disability of the recipient.

40 ...

41 (d) Repayment. – If the recipient notifies the Committee that the recipient intends to
 42 forego forgiveness of the loan after completion of the Program, the Committee shall provide the
 43 recipient with the conditions of repayment and the recipient will have 60 days to begin repayment
 44 of all funds distributed, including interest. The recipient will have up to 60 months to repay all
 45 funds distributed, including ~~interest.~~ interest, received in pursuit of an applied associate degree or
 46 a Basic Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion. The recipient will have up
 47 to 120 months to repay all funds distributed, including interest, received in pursuit of a bachelor's
 48 degree.

49 (e) Default. – The Committee shall determine the events that constitute a default during
 50 the Program, including, but not limited to, failure by the recipient to comply with the obligations
 51 set out in ~~G.S. 17C-22(h).~~ G.S. 17C-22(h), (h1), or (h2). In the event of default during the

1 Program, the Committee may declare the entire unpaid amount of indebtedness evidenced by the
2 note, including interest, immediately due and payable. A default shall preclude further
3 participation by the recipient in the Program. Upon default, the Committee shall notify the
4 recipient, in writing, by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the recipient at the
5 last address on file with the Committee. Refusal or nondelivery at that address will be deemed
6 delivered after seven days. The Committee may allow a recipient who is in default to repay all
7 funds distributed, including interest. If the Committee approves repayment, the recipient will
8 receive the conditions of repayment and will have 60 days to begin repayment of all funds
9 distributed, including interest. The recipient will have up to 60 months to repay all funds
10 distributed, including ~~interest~~interest, received in pursuit of an applied associate degree or Basic
11 Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion. The recipient will have up to 120
12 months to repay all funds distributed, including interest, received in pursuit of a bachelor's
13 degree."

14 **SECTION 4.2.** This Part is effective when it becomes law and applies to North
15 Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program participants selected on or after that date.

16 **PART V. ESTABLISH CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS**

17 **SECTION 5.1.** G.S. 15A-401 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 "(h) Crisis Intervention Team Requirement. – In order to assist law enforcement officers
19 in the safe and efficient execution of the provisions of this section, all law enforcement agencies
20 in the State shall designate specially trained law enforcement officers to be a part of an agency
21 Crisis Intervention Team. Each Crisis Intervention Team member shall be trained in how to
22 determine whether a person is experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis and what methods
23 are available to de-escalate or otherwise safely engage in interactions with a person experiencing
24 a mental or behavioral health crisis.

25 In order to remain eligible for Governor's Crime Commission grants, all law enforcement
26 agencies in the State shall have established a Crisis Intervention Team pursuant to this subsection
27 no later than December 1, 2026."

28 **SECTION 5.2.** Funds for Crisis Intervention Team Training. – There is appropriated
29 from the General Fund to the Department of Justice the sum of two hundred fifty million dollars
30 (\$250,000,000) to provide grant funds to law enforcement agencies for Crisis Intervention Team
31 training required by Section 5.1 of this Part.

32 **SECTION 5.3.** Section 5.2 of this Part becomes effective July 1, 2024. The
33 remainder of this Part is effective when it becomes law.
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36 **PART VI. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

37 **SECTION 6.1.** If any Part, section, or provision of this act is declared
38 unconstitutional or invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or
39 any portion other than the portion declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

40 **SECTION 6.2.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
41 law.