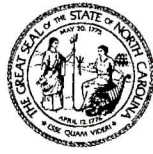


FAILED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 257

AMENDMENT NO. A15
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S257-AND-1 [v.2]

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Amends Title [NO]
Second Edition

Date _____, 2025

Senator ~~Everitt~~ BRADLEY

1 moves to amend the bill on page 284, lines 46 to 47, by inserting between the lines the following:

2

3 **"DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT**
4 **AGENCIES IN APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDS AND FUND POSITIONS TO MEET**
5 **THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION**

6 **SECTION 18.2.(a)** The Department of Justice shall provide assistance to law
7 enforcement agencies seeking grant funds, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 8 (1) Alerting law enforcement agencies to available grant funds.
- 9 (2) Assisting law enforcement agencies with drafting and submitting grant
10 proposals and applications.

11 **SECTION 18.2.(b)** Notwithstanding any provision of this act or the Committee
12 Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to
13 the Department of Justice shall be increased by the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in
14 recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to hire grant writers to assist
15 law enforcement agencies pursuant to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

16

17 **SUPPORT COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS**

18 **SECTION 18.3.** Notwithstanding any provision of this act or the Committee Report
19 described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the
20 Department of Justice shall be increased by the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in
21 recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to award grants to law
22 enforcement agencies for initiatives supporting community policing.

23

24 **CREATE INCENTIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES**

25 **SECTION 18.4.(a)** Notwithstanding any provision of this act or the Committee
26 Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to
27 the Department of Justice shall be increased by the sum of one million five hundred thousand
28 dollars (\$1,500,000) in recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to
29 provide the following types of grants:

- 30 (1) Grants provided to law enforcement agencies to be awarded to law
31 enforcement officers exhibiting exemplary service, as established by the
32 Department of Justice.



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1 (2) Grants awarded to law enforcement agencies for meeting racial or gender
2 diversity benchmarks, as established by the Department of Justice.
3 **SECTION 18.4.(b)** No grant awarded pursuant to this section shall exceed ten
4 thousand dollars (\$10,000).

5
6 **REVISE POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICIES**

7 **SECTION 18.5.(a)** G.S. 15A-401(d) reads as rewritten:

8 "(d) Use of Force in Arrest. –

9 ...

10 (2) A law-enforcement officer is justified in using deadly physical force upon
11 another person for a purpose specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection
12 only when it is or appears to be reasonably necessary thereby:

13 ...

14 Strangleholds, lateral vascular neck restraints, carotid restraints, or any other
15 tactics that restrict oxygen or blood flow to the head or neck shall be
16 considered the use of deadly force under this subdivision.

17 Nothing in this subdivision constitutes justification for willful, malicious or
18 criminally negligent conduct by any person which injures or endangers any
19 person or property, nor shall it be construed to excuse or justify the use of
20 unreasonable or excessive force.

21 (3) Under all circumstances in which a law-enforcement officer uses force of any
22 kind, a law-enforcement officer shall use the minimum amount of force
23 reasonably necessary to accomplish the law-enforcement action and shall
24 attempt to utilize de-escalation tactics when possible."

25 **SECTION 18.5.(b)** The Attorney General, in consultation with the North Carolina
26 Sheriffs' Association and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, shall develop
27 uniform use of force policies that may be adopted by all law enforcement agencies in the State.
28 These policies shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and
29 Public Safety no later than December 1, 2025, shall be published on the Department of Justice
30 website, and shall be distributed in digital format by the Attorney General to all law enforcement
31 agencies in the State.

32 **SECTION 18.5.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective October 1, 2025,
33 and applies to actions taken on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective when
34 it becomes law.

35
36 **ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE HIRING AND TRAINING OF LAW**
37 **ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

38 **SECTION 18.6.(a)** G.S. 17C-6(a) reads as rewritten:

39 "(a) In addition to powers conferred upon the Commission elsewhere in this Article, the
40 Commission shall have the following powers, which shall be enforceable through its rules and
41 regulations, certification procedures, or the provisions of G.S. 17C-10:

42 ...

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1 (2a) Establish the minimum age requirement that shall be met in order to qualify
2 for entry level employment as a criminal justice officer in temporary or
3 probationary status or in a permanent position, which shall not be less than 21
4 years of age.

5 "

6 **SECTION 18.6.(b)** G.S. 17C-13(b) reads as rewritten:

7 "(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 15A-145.4 or G.S. 15A-145.5, the Commission may gain
8 access to a person's misdemeanor and felony conviction records, including those maintained by
9 the Administrative Office of the Courts in its confidential files containing the names of persons
10 granted expunctions. The Commission may deny, suspend, or revoke a person's certification
11 based solely on that person's felony ~~conviction,~~ conviction or the conviction of four or more
12 misdemeanors, whether or not ~~that conviction was the~~ convictions were expunged, unless the
13 ~~conviction was~~ convictions were expunged pursuant to G.S. 15A-145.4 or G.S. 15A-145.8A."

14 **SECTION 18.6.(c)** G.S. 17E-4(a) reads as rewritten:

15 "(a) The Commission shall have the following powers, duties, and responsibilities, which
16 are enforceable through its rules and regulations, certification procedures, or the provisions of
17 G.S. 17E-8 and G.S. 17E-9:

18 ...

19 (2a) Establish the minimum age requirement that shall be met in order to qualify
20 for entry level employment as an officer in temporary or probationary status
21 or in a permanent position, which shall not be less than 21 years of age.

22 ...

23 The Commission may certify, and no additional certification shall be required from it, programs,
24 courses and teachers certified by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training
25 Standards Commission. Where the Commission determines that a program, course, instructor or
26 teacher is required for an area which is unique to the office of sheriff, the Commission may certify
27 such program, course, instructor, or teacher under such standards and procedures as it may
28 establish."

29 **SECTION 18.6.(d)** G.S. 17E-12(b) reads as rewritten:

30 "(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 15A-145.4 or G.S. 15A-145.5, the Commission may gain
31 access to a person's misdemeanor and felony conviction records, including those maintained by
32 the Administrative Office of the Courts in its confidential files containing the names of persons
33 granted expunctions. The Commission may deny, suspend, or revoke a person's certification
34 based solely on that person's felony ~~conviction,~~ conviction or the conviction of four or more
35 misdemeanors, whether or not ~~that conviction was the~~ convictions were expunged, unless the
36 ~~conviction was~~ convictions were expunged pursuant to G.S. 15A-145.4 or G.S. 15A-145.8A."

37 **SECTION 18.6.(e)** Subsections (a) and (c) of this section become effective January
38 1, 2026, and apply to officers hired or employed on or after that date. Subsections (b) and (d) of
39 this section become effective January 1, 2026, and apply to (i) officers hired on or after that date
40 and (ii) officers employed on or after that date that are convicted of a felony or misdemeanor on
41 or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

42

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1 **FUND ADDITIONAL DETECTIVES OR INVESTIGATIVE OFFICERS TO**
2 **INVESTIGATE THE SEVERE CRIMES**

3 **SECTION 18.7.** Notwithstanding any provision of this act or the Committee Report
4 described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the
5 Department of Justice shall be increased by the sum of of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in
6 recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to provide grants to law
7 enforcement agencies to temporarily provide partial or total funding for detective or other
8 investigative law enforcement positions in order to aid in the investigation of person crimes that
9 would constitute a charge of a Class D felony or higher."; and

10
11 on page 159, lines 5-6, by inserting between the lines the following:

12
13 **"REDUCE FUNDS FOR OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS**

14 **SECTION 8A.11.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.8 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 115C-562.8. The Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve.**

16 ...
17 (b) ~~The General Assembly finds that, due to the critical need in this State to provide~~
18 ~~opportunity for school choice for North Carolina students, it is imperative that the State provide~~
19 ~~an increase of funds for 15 years to the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve. Therefore,~~
20 ~~there~~ There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Reserve the following amounts for each
21 fiscal year to be used for the purposes set forth in this section:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
...	
2027-2028	\$700,000,000 \$694,500,000
2028-2029	\$725,000,000 \$719,500,000
2029-2030	\$750,000,000 \$744,500,000
2030-2031	\$775,000,000 \$769,500,000
2031-2032	\$800,000,000 \$794,500,000

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29 For the 2032-2033 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the
30 General Fund to the Reserve the sum of ~~eight hundred twenty five million dollars~~
31 ~~(\$825,000,000)~~ eight hundred nineteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$819,500,000) to
32 be used for the purposes set forth in this section. When developing the base budget, as defined
33 by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year specified in this subsection, the Director of the Budget
34 shall include the appropriated amount specified in this subsection for that fiscal year.

35 "

36 **SECTION 8A.11.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the
37 Committee Report referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated
38 to the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve for the award of opportunity scholarship
39 grants pursuant to Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes for the 2025-
40 2026 fiscal year are reduced by the sum of five million five hundred thousand dollars
41 (\$5,500,000) in recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

42 **SECTION 8A.11.(c)** This section applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school
43 year."; and

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- 1
- 2 by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED 
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____

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and vote information, is available in the
Senate Principal Clerk's Office**