

# 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:

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