



# SENATE BILL 355: Support the Dept. of Adult Correction.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Pensions and Retirement. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 13, 2026
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Daniel, Britt, B. Newton	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Stewart Sturkie*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Third Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 355 would modify certain laws related to the Department of Adult Correction (DAC), including by doing the following:*

- *Provide tuition waivers for survivors of fallen probation officers who were killed as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.*
- *Modify technical requirements for electronic monitoring and satellite-based monitoring.*
- *Expand the definition of probation/parole officer in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System to include full-time paid employees of the Department of Adult Correction's Office of Staff Development and Training who are certified as Probation/Parole Officers and work exclusively in a training role. The expansion allows these individuals to earn credit toward the State law enforcement special separation allowance for this service.*
- *Make certain technical changes.*

### CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1.1** would modify certain laws in Chapter 115B of the General Statutes (Tuition and Fee Waivers) to expand the definition of a "probation officer" and provide that survivors of probation officers who have died in the line of duty shall be allowed to attend constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and community colleges without the payment of tuition. The waiver would also apply to spouses and children of probation officers who become permanently disabled due to a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

**Section 1.2** would modify technical requirements for electronic monitoring and satellite-based monitoring. G.S. 15A-101.1 would be modified to change the definition of electronic monitoring to no longer require that the device has a battery life of at least 48 hours.

**Section 2.1** would modify a qualification for one of the two experts in the field of behavior and treatment of sexual offenders, who serve on the board of experts that study whether a defendant is a sexually violent predator. Under current law these experts are not allowed to be employed by the Division of Prisons of DAC (the "Division"). The law would be modified so that these experts could not be employed full-time by the Division but are otherwise not prohibited so that they could be employed part-time. This section would become effective December 1, 2026, and would apply to boards of experts selected on or after that date.

**Section 2.2** would extend the sunset on provisions concerning the training and authority of security guards providing certain types of security at a State prison facility from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

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**Section 3.1** would provide that the Secretary of DAC may pay for projects for repairs and renovations with funds available to DAC if the following conditions are met:

- The total project does not cost more than \$1 million and the project is one of the type listed in statute.
- DAC reports on the project to the Fiscal Research Division on a quarterly basis.
- Any funds from a General Fund appropriation that are contractually obligated for a project shall not revert at the end of the fiscal year but shall remain available to fund the completion of the project.

**Section 3.2** would allow DAC to use up to approximately \$1.6 million from certain listed projects to finance capital facility costs of HVAC projects at State facilities.

**Section 5.1** would modify G.S. 135-1 to expand the definition of a "Probation/Parole Officer" to include "a full-time paid employee of the Department of Adult Correction's Office of Staff Development and Training who is certified as a Probation/Parole Officer and works exclusively in a training role." This expansion will allow these individuals to earn credit toward the State law enforcement special separation allowance for this service.

**Section 6.1** makes a technical change.

**Section 6.2** would allow public officials and employees to view pornography on a network or device of a public agency as part of an investigation of matters (i) involving offenders incarcerated with DAC or (ii) the misuse of devices owned by DAC.

**Section 7.1** contains a severability clause.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, this act would be effective when it becomes law.

*\*Robert Ryan and Jessica Boney, Staff Attorneys with the Legislative Analysis Division, significantly contributed to this summary.*