



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

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

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 9, 2026
Introduced by:	Sens. Daniel, Britt, B. Newton	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	PCS to Fourth Edition S355-CSSAp-39		Staff Attorney

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

- Providing 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.
- Modifying technical requirements for electronic monitoring and satellite-based monitoring.
- Modifying the method of establishing post-release supervision requirements.
- Increasing the limit on government employee purchases from Correction Enterprises.
- Expanding 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.
- Making 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 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. This section would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to waivers of tuition granted on or after that date.

Section 1.2 would modify technical requirements for electronic monitoring and satellite-based monitoring by amending the definition of electronic monitoring to no longer require that the device has a battery life of at least 48 hours. This section would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to an electronic monitoring device used on or after that date.

Section 1.3 would modify the authority of the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission to authorize a single member of the Commission to set and modify terms and conditions of post-release supervision, authorize the issuance of a letter of reprimand, and continue an offender's supervision. This section would be effective when it becomes law and apply to actions taken by the Commission on or after that date.

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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 increase the amount a government employee or retiree can purchase from Correction Enterprises from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per calendar year.

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 types 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.

This section would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to payments for projects for repairs and renovations occurring on or after that date.

Section 4.1 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 would allow these individuals to earn credit toward the State law enforcement special separation allowance for this service. This section would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to determinations under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes made on or after that date.

Section 5.1 would reduce the required number of meetings of the State Reentry Council Collaborative from quarterly to annually.

Section 6.1 would modify G.S. §15A-1368.2(c1) to require the superior court in the county where the conviction occurred, rather than the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission, to determine when a sex offender required to submit to satellite-based monitoring as a condition of post-release supervision may be released from that requirement. This section would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to satellite-based monitoring releases ordered on or after that date.

Section 6.2 would add an exemption from the prohibition against viewing pornography on a network or device of a public agency for public officials and employees investigating matters (i) involving offenders incarcerated with DAC or (ii) the misuse of devices owned by DAC. This section would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to investigations occurring before, on, or after that date.

Section 6.3 would make a technical correction to G.S. 1E-20 to accurately reflect that the Department of Adult Correction holds those records.

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

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