



Legislative Update

Week of November 15, 2021

Roy Cooper, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Last week, the General Assembly released a \$25.9 billion and \$27 billion spending plan for Fiscal Years 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. After weeks of negotiations with Governor Cooper, the legislature released details of the budget publicly Monday evening. To the delight of many, Governor Cooper held a midday press conference on Tuesday to announce his intentions to sign Senate Bill 105, *2021 Appropriations Act*. Soon after the Governor's announcement, the Senate held the first of two votes on the budget, followed by the final vote on Wednesday afternoon. The budget bill passed the Senate with a 41-7 tally. Later Wednesday afternoon the House took up the first of its two votes. On Thursday, representatives approved the spending measure with a 101-10 vote. Just hours after being ratified, Governor Cooper signed the budget bill into law.

Looking ahead, the General Assembly will not hold votes this week in observance of Thanksgiving. It is anticipated that both the House and Senate will resume the people's business the following week. However, the focus will be on tying up loose ends before pausing again. Many speculate that session will not officially adjourn but will take a December recess.

Below are highlights of appropriations provided to DPS agencies in the 2021 Appropriations Act:

DEPARTMENT-WIDE

- *Salary Increases* - Provides funding for a salary increase of 2.5% in FY 2021-22, and an additional salary increase of 2.5% in FY 2022-23. State agency teachers would be paid according to the teacher salary schedule.
- *Premium Pay Bonuses* – Provides a \$1,000 bonus for full-time State employees and local education employees, regardless of funding source. Also provides an additional \$500 bonus in one of the following groups: (1) employees with an annual salary of less than \$75,000, (2) law enforcement officers, and (3) employees in the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, with job duties requiring frequent in-person, regardless of salary level.

ADMINISTRATION

- *Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS)*– Appropriates \$1.875 million in FY 2021-22, and \$2.5 million in FY 2022-23, to support existing positions with IBHS.
- *Center for Safer Schools* – Provides \$2 million non-recurring and \$2.2 million recurring respectively in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. Funds will be used to establish the East Montgomery High School Center for Safer Schools.
- *Boxing Commission Transfer* - Budgets the transfer of receipts, one FTE, and operations of the NC Boxing Commission from the Department of Commerce to DPS. A \$277,827 net appropriation in each year of the biennium will support Commission operations, an Executive Director, and two program coordinators. The Commission will be renamed the North Carolina Boxing and Combat Sports Commission.
- *Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Transfer* – Transfers the CJIN Board, along with staff and operations.

- *Offender Population Unified System (OPUS) Migration* - Provides \$1.8 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to improve system security and accessibility of inmate information by transferring data currently stored on mainframe servers to cloud storage.
- *Grants for Local Reentry Councils* – Provides \$400,000 non-recurring in each year of the biennium for grants to local reentry councils to meet increase demand.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Alcohol Law Enforcement

- *Equipment* - Provides \$459,130 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to equip agents for responding to excessive civil disturbances and related events, and to purchase computers and other needed equipment.
- *Lease Space and Office Staff* - Provides \$557,647 recurring in each year of the biennium to ALE for office space leases, along with non-recurring funds to furnish those spaces. Also provides funding for 9 FTE administrative staff positions at an annualized cost of \$716,023 recurring. Positions would be effective January 1, 2022.

State Capitol Police

- *Equipment* - Provides \$394,512 non-recurring in FY 2022-23 to equip officers for responding to excessive civil disturbances and related events.
- *Additional Positions* - Provides funding for 20 additional sworn officers and their equipment, effective January 1, 2022. Annualized recurring cost of \$1.45 million.

State Highway Patrol

- *Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System* - Provides \$11.1 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for modernizing the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This system provides automated recordkeeping, dispatch information, and other support for Troopers in the line of duty.
- *Equipment* - Provides \$18 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to equip troopers to respond to excessive civil disturbances and related events. Also includes support for the purchase of two personnel carriers and additional personal equipment.
- *Training Sustainability* – Provides \$700k non-recurring in FY 2022-23 to support the increased number of cadets entering Highway Patrol Basic School. Funds will support training operations, new equipment, uniforms, vehicles, and safety gear for new troopers.
- *VIPER* - Provides \$19.325 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to update equipment necessary to operate the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) system.
- *Helicopter and Operating Expenses* – Provides \$9 million in FY 2021-22 for the purchase of a new helicopter, and \$1 million recurring in each year of the biennium for operating expenses.
- *SHP Caisson Unit* – Provides a directed grant of \$275k to the NC Troopers Association to support the SHP Caisson Unit.
- *K-9 Search and Recovery* – Provides a directed grant of \$125k to the NC Troopers Association for operation of the K-9 search and recovery efforts.

State Bureau of Investigation

- *Equipment* - Provides \$2 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for equipment and IT needs.

- *Human Trafficking Enforcement* - Provides \$259,388 recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$1.04 million recurring in FY 2022-23, to increase the SBI's efforts combating human trafficking in North Carolina. The additional eight positions would be effective January 1, 2022.
- *RapBack* - Provides \$200k non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's RapBack criminal database information program.
- *Electronic Concealed Carry Permits* - Provides \$250k recurring in each year of the biennium for the implementation of electronic concealed weapons permits.
- *Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce Incentive Grants* - Provides \$3 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association to establish a competitive grant program for local law enforcement to assist with costs related to working with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) in investigating internet crimes against children.

SAMARCAND TRAINING ACADEMY

- *Samarcand Deputy Director* – Provides recurring funding for a Deputy Director position at the Samarcand Training Academy.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- *Competitive Emergency Management Grants* – Provides \$3 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$5 million non-recurring in FY 2022-23, for a competitive grant program to provide county emergency management offices with needed resources for emergency and disaster support.
- *State Search and Rescue* – Provides \$2 million recurring in each year of the biennium to support the State Search and Rescue program.
- *NC 2-1-1* – Provides \$500k and \$230k in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, respectively, to support operations of the NC 2-1-1 program, operated by United Way of North Carolina. This hotline provides North Carolinians with information and access for disaster recovery programs.
- *FEMA Match Requirements* – Budgets \$20 million and \$10 million to be used for any FEMA State match requirements for past and future disaster declarations, respectively.
- *Emergency Management Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund* – Budgets \$15 million for a new Disaster Relief and Mitigation special fund. This new Fund will provide grants to State agencies, units of local government, and non-profit corporations for flood mitigation efforts.
- *Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Funds* – Budgets \$15 million to create a new Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency special fund. This new Fund will provide grants to State agencies, units of local government, and non-profit corporations to facilitate transportation resilience against natural disasters.
- *Railroad Floodgate Project* – Budgets \$5 million for the CSX Floodgate project in Robeson County.
- *Mobile Panic Alarms in Public Schools* - Provides \$4.9 million total for the biennium to implement mobile panic alarm capability in all public K-12 and charter schools.
- *Tropical Storm Fred* – Budgets \$72 million for Tropical Storm Fred-related relief and recovery efforts. Funding is allocated to ensure FEMA match requirements are available; to support repair and reconstruction of homes and rental properties, in addition to critical

residential private access roads and bridges; to provide short-term housing; and to provide assistance to local government entities.

NC OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY (NCORR)

- *Resiliency Efforts* – Provides \$356,617 recurring in each year of the biennium for the Office's Resiliency Team to help local governments and state agencies incorporate resiliency efforts in their emergency response and disaster recovery planning. Funding will support three additional positions.
- *Stoney Creek Acquisitions* – Budgets \$5 million for the acquisition of vulnerable property in the Stoney Creek watershed.

NATIONAL GUARD

- *Equipment and Programming* – Provides \$300,000 recurring in each year of the biennium for various purposes, including equipment for the National Guard Response Force, tracking devices, maintenance of facilities and programs, and State awards.
- *Cyber Security Response Force* – Provides \$1.2 million recurring in each year of the biennium to support operations of the Cyber Security Response Force.
- *High-Frequency Radios* – Provides \$400,000 non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the purchase of high-frequency radios.
- *NC Tuition Assistance Program* – Budgets \$2.11 million recurring in each year of the biennium for the transfer of the existing NC Tuition Assistance Program from the State Education Assistance Authority to the NCNG.
- *Tarheel ChalleNGe Positions* – Provides a net appropriation of \$541,758 in each year of the biennium for the National Guard Tarheel ChalleNGe Academies to support 37 new positions. These positions are needed to bring the State into compliance with federal staffing regulations. The State share of these positions is 25%.
- *Tarheel ChalleNGe Multipurpose Building* – Provides \$31k non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy's Salemburg campus to complete renovations in and around a multipurpose building.

ADULT CORRECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

- *Establish a new Department of Adult Correction* – Provides \$2 million recurring, beginning in FY 2022-23, to establish a separate Department of Adult Correction. Funding will support positions necessary to operate the new cabinet-level department. Effective date for the newly established department is January 1, 2023.
- *Certified Staff Salary Adjustments* – Provides \$5.2 million recurring in each year of the biennium to alleviate salary compression for certified staff of Adult Correction not compensated pursuant to the Correctional Officer salary schedule.

Community Corrections

- *Probation/Parole Officer Salary Schedule* – Provides \$18.1 million recurring in each year of the biennium to implement a new experience-based salary schedule for Probation/Parole Officers.
- *Additional Positions* – Provides funding for 32 additional positions and operational support, and 15 vehicles. Total appropriations of \$2.58 million and \$2.37 million in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, respectively.
- *Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) Community Supervision Pilot* – For FY 2021-22, budgets \$8 million in receipts from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block

Grant to expand the MAT Community Supervision pilot program to five tier one/tier two counties with the greatest need.

- *Treatment for Effective Community Supervision* – Provides \$1 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for community supervision programs, including short term housing, recidivism reduction services, and social programming for offenders reentering the community.

Juvenile Justice

- *Establish a Separate Division of Juvenile Justice* – Provides \$1.36 million recurring, starting in FY 2022-23, to establish a separate Division of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Public Safety. The funding supports positions necessary to operate as a standalone DPS division.
- *Reentry to Resilience Transitional Support for Youth* – Provides \$500k non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for the Juvenile Justice Section to expand wraparound services for youth transitioning from Youth Development Centers into their communities.
- *Operating Costs for Additional Juvenile Detention Beds* – Provides \$2 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 for addressing the increase in youth detention associated with Raise the Age legislation.

Prisons

- *Correctional Officer Salary Schedule* – Provides \$32.1 million recurring in each year of the biennium to implement a new experience-based salary schedule for Correctional Officers.
- *Inmate Medical Deficits* – Provides \$45 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22, and \$50 million recurring in FY 2022-23, to help address a budget shortfall related to increased medical costs for inmates.
- *Long-Term Care Facility at Central Prison* – Provides a total of \$4.78 million in FY 2021-22, and \$7.2 million in FY 2022-23, for medical and custody positions to operate a long-term care facility at Central Prison for chronically ill inmates.
- *Prisons Capital Assessment* – Appropriates \$1.5 million non-recurring in each year of the FY 2021-23 biennium to create a coordinated capital plan for prisons.
- *Prison Health Record Update*- Provides \$300k non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to update electronic health records and connect to the Health Information Exchange, thus ensuring security and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance of inmate health records.
- *Prison Pharmacy Services* – Provides an additional \$3.38 million in each year of the biennium to help cover increases in prescription drug supplies.
- *Critical Safety Improvements in Prison Facilities* – Provides \$2.75 million non-recurring in each year of the biennium to increase the safety for staff and inmates at prison facilities through activities such as implementing man-down technology, increasing access to automated external defibrillators, replacing firearms, providing critical safety upgrades to facilities, and replacing metal bed springs.
- *Controlled Cell Services* - Provides \$21 million non-recurring in FY 2021-22 to implement technology designed to control cell service usage of authorized and unauthorized cellular and wireless devices within correctional facilities and manage inmate financial transactions.

CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- *HVAC Upgrades* – Appropriates \$30 million for HVAC upgrades for DPS state-owned facilities
- *National Guard Burke County Regional Readiness Center* - Provides \$3.25 million during the biennium for equipment and paving at the Burke County Regional Readiness Center
- *National Guard Guilford Regional Readiness Center* - Provides \$15.7 million for completion of the Guilford County Regional Readiness Center.
- *National Guard Edgecombe County* - Provides \$9.5 million in the biennium for site planning, demolition, and preparation at the Fountain Correctional facility in Edgecombe County.
- *National Guard Projects* - Provides \$8 million to match federal funds to be used to demolish, renovate, and construct facilities across the state.
- *Richmond Justice Detention Center* - Provides \$10.7 million to renovate and reopen the Richmond Regional Juvenile Detention Center to meet the projected juvenile justice needs associated with Raise the Age.
- *Safer Schools Training Academy* - Provides \$4.17 million for the purchase of a building in East Montgomery for the Safer Schools Training Academy.
- *Samarcand Live Fire Training Facility* - Provides \$1.83 million to purchase the Cochran land and construct a live fire training facility at the Samarcand Training Academy.
- *Samarcand Parking Lot* - Provides \$475,000 to install drainage and surface the parking lot at the Samarcand Training Academy.
- *SBI Headquarters* - Provides \$28.57 million in the biennium for a new headquarters and building 12 renovations. The total amount authorized for the project is \$81.6 million.
- *SHP Garner Road Armory* - Provides \$17.85 million in the biennium for a new state-of-the-art armory.
- *SHP Technical Services Building* - Provides \$7.14 million for a new technical services unit building.

DPS Bills with Action this Week

(Note: Click on the bill title to view the most current version of the bill)

Division(s) Impacted	Sponsor(s)	Bill #	Short Title	Action
PPSB	Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.	H 978	Modifications to 2021 Appointments Bill.	11/18/2021 Senate Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

Department-Wide	B. Jackson, Harrington, and Hise	S 105	2021 Appropriations Act.	11/17/2021 Senate Conf Report Adopted 3rd 41-7; House Conf Report Adopted 2nd 104-10
ABC	Johnson and Hise	S 470	ABC Technical and Other Changes.	11/18/2021 House Passed 3rd Reading 104- 6

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at
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