

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1989**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 944**

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Sponsors: Representatives Watkins; Craven and Blue.

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Referred to: Rules.

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March 29, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION STATING THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
2 CONCERNING PRISONS.

3       Whereas, it is the intent of the State of North Carolina to operate its prison  
4 system in accordance with established constitutional principles and to protect the people  
5 of the State from those who violate its laws; and

6       Whereas, since 1985 the State has appropriated substantial funds to make  
7 improvements to the State's prison system; and

8       Whereas, the State has taken steps through appropriations, construction,  
9 stabilization of the prison population, and implementation of diversionary alternatives to  
10 incarceration to resolve past litigation and to improve the operation of the prison  
11 system; and

12       Whereas, the separate resolution of the various lawsuits challenging prison  
13 conditions has resulted in operational standards which differ from prison to prison; and

14       Whereas, it is desirable for the State to bring an end to unnecessary and  
15 wasteful litigation concerning the conditions of confinement within the State's prison  
16 system;

17 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

18       Section 1. The General Assembly undertakes to appropriate sufficient funds  
19 over the next eight years to achieve the following goals:

- 20       (1) To provide 50 square feet of living space for each member of the  
21 prison population;
- 22       (2) To provide adequate security for the prison population, correctional  
23 staff and the public;

- 1           (3)    To provide adequate medical care;
- 2           (4)    To provide adequate fire safety; and
- 3           (5)    To provide for the other basic needs of the prison population.
- 4           Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.