

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 274

Short Title: GPAC/Dept. of Correction.

(Public)

Sponsors: (by request) Representatives Diamont, Blue, Barnes, Hackney, Hensley, H. Hunter, G. Miller, Nesbitt, and Robinson.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 25, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

—PRISON CONSOLIDATION.

Section 1. (a) The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) North Carolina has the eighth highest corrections staffing level in the nation, and the State's prison efficiency is low as measured by inmates per correction officer in prisons in the southeastern United States;
- (2) Other states manage an equivalent number of inmates with one-third less staff;
- (3) North Carolina has four to six times as many prisons as the national state average;
- (4) The average state prison holds more than two and one-half times more inmates than the average North Carolina prison;
- (5) Over one-third of North Carolina's prisons have standard operating capacities that are inefficient and costly;
- (6) The number of small prisons and a lack of autonomy in prison superintendents creates excessive layers of management, inefficiencies, unnecessary paperwork, and a reduction in accountability;

1 (7) The Eastern and Western Commands of North Carolina's Division of
2 Prisons have approximately 330 staff in their area offices that provide
3 supervision and centralized support to 66 small and medium prisons.

4 (b) The Department of Correction shall construct three new prison facilities and
5 expand two existing prison facilities. The designs for the new facilities and the
6 expanded facilities shall include an estimate of the inmate-to-staff ratio that will be
7 required by the facility when it is fully operational. The new and expanded facilities
8 should be large enough to achieve an inmate-to-correctional officer ratio of
9 approximately 5:1 and an inmate-to-total uniformed staff ratio of approximately 4:1.

10 (c) The Department of Correction shall consolidate the populations of the
11 following institutions into the facilities constructed and expanded pursuant to this
12 section: Warren Correctional Center, Halifax Correctional Center, Washington
13 Correctional Center, Scotland Correctional Center, Yadkin Correctional Center,
14 McDowell Correctional Center, Yancey Correctional Center, Moore Correctional
15 Center, Alamance Correctional Center, Avery Correctional Center, Union Correctional
16 Center, Stanley Correctional Center, Granville Correctional Center, Alexander
17 Correctional Center, Currituck Correctional Center, Wilmington Residential Facility for
18 Women, Davie Correctional Center, Rockingham Correctional Center, Watauga
19 Correctional Center, Cleveland Correctional Center, Haywood Correctional Center,
20 Person Correctional Center, Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women,
21 Mecklenburg Correctional Center, Umstead Correctional Center, Martin Correctional
22 Center, Henderson Correctional Center, Gates Correctional Center, Buncombe
23 Correctional Center, and Stokes Correctional Center.

24 (d) The Division of Prisons of the Department of Correction shall redraw its area
25 command regions in conjunction with the consolidation accomplished in this section.
26 The Division shall develop new policies to minimize approval and review functions at
27 the area command. Central support services shall be consolidated under the area
28 boundaries.

29 (e) As a result of the prison consolidation and improved organizational
30 functions provided for in this section, the Division of Prisons of the Department of
31 Correction shall reduce its staff by a net of 660 uniformed staff and 132 area office
32 staff.

33 (f) The base budget of the Department of Correction is reduced by four
34 hundred sixty-two thousand dollars (\$462,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year, by nine
35 hundred fifty-two thousand dollars (\$952,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, by seven
36 million three hundred one thousand dollars (\$7,301,000) for the 1995-96 fiscal year, by
37 fourteen million six hundred thousand dollars (\$14,600,000) for the 1996-97 fiscal year,
38 and by seven million three hundred one thousand dollars (\$7,301,000) for the 1997-98
39 fiscal year, as a result of the consolidation and staff reductions accomplished in this
40 section on the timetable set by the Government Performance Audit Committee.

41 (g) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
42 Correction the sum of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal
43 year for the construction of new prison facilities and the expansion of existing facilities
44 pursuant to the provisions of this section.

1 (h) This section becomes effective July 1, 1993.

2 ---GPAC/DOC CLAIMS PROCESSING.

3 Sec. 2. (a) The General Assembly finds that medical claims processing within
4 the the Department of Correction for health care services provided to inmates is handled
5 manually.

6 (b) The Division of Medical Assistance of the Department of Human Resources
7 and the Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive Major Medical Plan shall assist
8 the Department of Correction in discussions and possible negotiations with the claims
9 processing contractors used by those agencies in order to secure a contractor to provide
10 automated processing of medical claims for the Department of Correction.

11 (c) This section becomes effective July 1, 1993.