

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1993**

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SENATE BILL 243

Short Title: GPAC/Prison Consolidation.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Martin of Guilford.

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Referred to: Government Performance Audit.

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February 18, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE TO CONSOLIDATE THIRTY OF THE STATE'S SMALLEST PRISONS, AND TO IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS AND REDUCE STAFF IN AREA OFFICES OF THE DIVISION OF PRISONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. 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 Sec. 2. The Department of Correction shall construct three new prison  
5 facilities and expand two existing prison facilities. The designs for the new facilities  
6 and the expanded facilities shall include an estimate of the inmate-to-staff ratio that will  
7 be 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 Sec. 3. The Department of Correction shall consolidate the populations of the  
11 following institutions into the facilities constructed and expanded pursuant to this act:  
12 Warren Correctional Center, Halifax Correctional Center, Washington Correctional  
13 Center, Scotland Correctional Center, Yadkin Correctional Center, McDowell  
14 Correctional Center, Yancey Correctional Center, Moore Correctional Center,  
15 Alamance Correctional Center, Avery Correctional Center, Union Correctional Center,  
16 Stanley Correctional Center, Granville Correctional Center, Alexander Correctional  
17 Center, Currituck Correctional Center, Wilmington Residential Facility for Women,  
18 Davie Correctional Center, Rockingham Correctional Center, Watauga Correctional  
19 Center, Cleveland Correctional Center, Haywood Correctional Center, Person  
20 Correctional Center, Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women, Mecklenburg  
21 Correctional Center, Umstead Correctional Center, Martin Correctional Center,  
22 Henderson Correctional Center, Gates Correctional Center, Buncombe Correctional  
23 Center, and Stokes Correctional Center.

24 Sec. 4. The Division of Prisons of the Department of Correction shall redraw  
25 its area command regions in conjunction with the consolidation accomplished in this  
26 act. The Division shall develop new policies to minimize approval and review functions  
27 at the area command. Central support services shall be consolidated under the area  
28 boundaries.

29 Sec. 5. As a result of the prison consolidation and improved organizational  
30 functions provided for in this act, 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 Sec. 6. 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 act  
40 on the timetable set by the Government Performance Audit Committee.

41 Sec. 7. 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 act.

1           Sec. 8. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.