

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1999**

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**SENATE BILL 265**

Short Title: Juvenile Assessment Project Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Rand; and Shaw of Cumberland.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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March 8, 1999

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER PROJECT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS  
FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1.(a) The Office of Juvenile Justice, in collaboration with the Chief Court Counselor of District Court District 12, the Cumberland County Department of Social Services, and the appropriate local school administrative units, shall continue operation of the Juvenile Assessment Center Project in District Court District 12 and established in Section 18.21 of S.L. 1997-443, as amended by Section 16.6 of S.L. 1998-212. The purpose of the Project is to facilitate efficient prevention and intervention service delivery to juveniles who are (i) alleged to be delinquent or undisciplined and have been taken into custody or (ii) at risk of becoming delinquent or undisciplined because they have behavioral problems and have committed delinquent acts even though they have not been taken into custody. The Project shall also provide services to the families of these juveniles and shall assist these juveniles by providing a centralized point of intake and assessment for the juveniles, by addressing the educational, emotional, and physical needs of the juveniles and by providing juveniles with an atmosphere for learning personal responsibility, self-respect, and respect for others. The Project shall maintain

1 individual case files and keep statistical information used to document services delivered  
2 and evaluate the progress of the program.

3 Section 1.(b) The Project shall continue to:

- 4 (1) Identify those juveniles who are alleged to be delinquent or  
5 undisciplined or who are at risk of becoming delinquent or  
6 undisciplined;
- 7 (2) Evaluate the educational, emotional, and physical needs of the juveniles  
8 identified and determine whether the juveniles have problems related to  
9 substance abuse, depression, or other emotional conditions;
- 10 (3) Develop a collaborative interagency information network that will speed  
11 appropriate law enforcement, juvenile court, and relevant intervention  
12 responses for referred youth and their families;
- 13 (4) Develop in-depth and comprehensive assessment plans for the juveniles  
14 identified that recommend appropriate treatment, counseling, and  
15 disposition of the juveniles; and
- 16 (5) Provide services to juveniles identified and their families through  
17 collaboration with public and private resources, including local law  
18 enforcement, parents' organizations, the faith community, and county  
19 and community programs and organizations that provide substance  
20 abuse treatment and child and family counseling.

21 Section 1.(c) The Juvenile Assessment Advisory Board established in Section  
22 18.21 of S.L. 1997-443 and amended by Section 16.6 of S.L. 1998-212 shall continue to  
23 evaluate the operations of the Project and shall make recommendations regarding the  
24 Project to the Office of Juvenile Justice. The Board shall consist of the 13 members  
25 initially appointed pursuant to Section 18.21 of S.L. 1997-443.

26 The Board shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chair, and a quorum of  
27 the Board shall consist of a majority of its members. The Board of County  
28 Commissioners of Cumberland County shall continue to provide necessary clerical and  
29 professional assistance to the Board.

30 The terms of the members shall expire June 30, 2001.

31 Section 1.(d) The Office of Juvenile Justice shall evaluate the Project and  
32 report to the Chairs of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety of  
33 the Senate and House of Representatives and the Fiscal Research Division of the General  
34 Assembly by October 1, 2000, on the operations of the Project. The October 2000 report  
35 shall include recommendations on whether the Project should be continued and, if so, the  
36 extent to which it should be continued, why it should be continued, and the costs  
37 associated with continuing the Project. If the Office of Juvenile Justice recommends the  
38 Project should not be continued, it shall provide the reasons for that recommendation.

39 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of  
40 Juvenile Justice the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 1999-  
41 2000 fiscal year and the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the 2000-  
42 2001 fiscal year to fund the Juvenile Assessment Center Project authorized by this act.

43 Section 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999, and expires June 30, 2001.