

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE DRS35389-LH-258 (05/11)

Short Title: Sex Offender Watch Initiative/DOJ Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Snow.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR JUSTICE AND
2 LAW ENFORCEMENT, TO FULLY FUND THE NORTH CAROLINA SEX
3 OFFENDER WATCH INITIATIVE, TO FUND THE STATEWIDE
4 AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (SAFIS)
5 REPLACEMENT, TO FUND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO PROTECT
6 CHILDREN AND ADULTS FROM SEXUAL PREDATORS, TO SPEED THE
7 PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS OF DNA, DRUG EVIDENCE, AND
8 COMPUTER FORENSIC EVIDENCE, TO PROVIDE NEW FUNDING TO
9 IMPROVE INTERDICTION EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE INCREASE IN
10 METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING, AND MORE EFFECTIVELY
11 COMBAT FINANCIAL CRIMES, IDENTITY THEFT AND PUBLIC
12 CORRUPTION, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PAY SBI PERSONNEL A
13 MORE COMPETITIVE WAGE SO AS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN
14 EXPERIENCED LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS, TO PROVIDE
15 FUNDS TO EXPAND TRAINING FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TO
16 FUND FIVE NEW ATTORNEYS TO ADDRESS THE GROWING
17 WORKLOADS IN FOUR CRITICAL AREAS.

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19 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

20 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
21 Department of Justice the sum of three hundred three thousand five hundred sixty-four
22 dollars (\$303,564) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fully fund the North Carolina Sex
23 Offender Watch Initiative and to support two new information technology staff
24 positions to help build, implement, and maintain this program. More than 9,900
25 convicted sex offenders are currently listed on the North Carolina Sex Offender
26 Registry. Through the current Sex Offender Registry, people across the State can learn
27 the names, addresses, and offenses of sex offenders and view their photos online.

1 However, local law enforcement knows that some sex offenders move frequently and,
2 more troubling, hunt for new victims. Informing people more quickly and pinpointing
3 where sex offenders live will help parents protect children from predators.

4 The North Carolina Sex Offender Watch Initiative is designed to use new
5 technology to provide more current and useful information by: (i) allowing residents of
6 a community to be notified by e-mail immediately when a sex offender moves into their
7 neighborhood, and (ii) using GIS mapping to show exactly where an offender lives in
8 relation to a neighborhood, school, day care center, business, or any other location of
9 concern.

10 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
11 Department of Justice the sum of one million nine hundred sixty-three thousand seven
12 hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$1,963,768) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund the
13 replacement of the Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) and
14 to support one new information technology staff position to coordinate the
15 implementation and deployment of this critical law enforcement information system
16 project. SAFIS is a vital law enforcement and public safety resource that serves over
17 500 law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement can use this system to pinpoint a
18 suspect in a matter of minutes using the unique identifiers found on fingerprints left at a
19 crime scene. SAFIS has stopped sex offenders and other criminals from working at the
20 bedsides of our most vulnerable senior citizens and in the classrooms right next to our
21 children. Hundreds of law enforcers, schools, nursing homes, and child care facilities
22 depend on the automated fingerprint system to disqualify job applicants with criminal
23 records. This computerized fingerprint system protects all North Carolinians by solving
24 crimes and helping to put criminals in jail. It also keeps felons and other dangerous
25 individuals out of positions where they could prey on our State's most vulnerable
26 residents.

27 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
28 Department of Justice the sum of one million five hundred fifty-five thousand two
29 hundred sixteen dollars (\$1,555,216) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to deploy 20 new
30 SBI investigators in the following critical areas:

- 31 (1) Full funding for five new SBI Computer Crime and Computer
32 Forensics investigators to increase undercover law enforcement efforts
33 to catch child predators and speed the analysis of computer forensic
34 evidence used to arrest and prosecute these predators.
- 35 (2) Full funding for two new DNA investigators to further expedite and
36 improve DNA evidence processing. DNA evidence is critical evidence
37 that can be used to identify suspects and convict sex offenders.
- 38 (3) Full funding for four Drug Chemists, one Drug Chemistry Technician
39 and one Office Assistant to expedite the processing of 30,000 annual
40 drug and toxicology samples for use in criminal prosecutions.
- 41 (4) Full funding for three new SBI Field Agents to enhance drug
42 interdiction efforts with a focus on methamphetamine trafficking.

1 (5) Full funding for four new SBI Field Agents to combat growing
2 incidence of financial crimes, public corruption and identity theft and
3 related cases.

4 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
5 Department of Justice the sum of three hundred eighty-five thousand three hundred
6 twenty-five dollars (\$385,325) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund pay equity
7 increases in the State Bureau of Investigation, in order to pay SBI personnel a more
8 competitive wage so as to recruit and retain experienced law enforcement professionals
9 for the State's premiere law enforcement agency.

10 **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
11 Department of Justice the sum of four hundred thirty-six thousand four hundred eighty
12 dollars (\$436,480) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund increased training requirements
13 for over 29,000 State and local law enforcement officers, approximately 7,000 detention
14 officers and all certified telecommunicators (911 operators) and to fund a new online
15 training and registration system along with three new positions to support the
16 deployment of this critical law enforcement training.

17 **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
18 Department of Justice the sum of two hundred thirty-two thousand nine hundred
19 seventy-nine dollars (\$232,979) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to hire five critical staff
20 attorneys to address workload demand in the Criminal Appellate, Law Enforcement
21 Liaison, Revenue, and the Waste Management Sections of the Department of Justice.

22 **SECTION 7.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
23 Department of Justice the sum of seven hundred seventy-two thousand five hundred
24 dollars (\$772,500) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to comply with S. L. 2003-404 that
25 mandated conversion of State offices located on Blount Street to private ownership.
26 The Department of Justice Information Technology Division operates a 24/7 police
27 information computer center that provides mission critical law enforcement data to over
28 11,000 State, local, and federal law enforcement officers throughout North Carolina. To
29 make this required move seamless, a backup computer center is critical to ensure the
30 uninterrupted transition from Blount Street. Annual backup center charges are
31 ninety-six thousand dollars (\$96,000) a year and onetime equipment and moving
32 expenses are seven hundred thousand five hundred dollars (\$700,500) for fiscal year
33 2006-2007.

34 **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.