

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 890

Short Title: Wake Teen Court Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Reeves; and Miller.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 16, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A TEEN COURT PROGRAM
IN WAKE COUNTY.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. (a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year to develop and implement a Teen Court program in District Court District 10, Wake County.

(b) The Teen Court program in Wake County shall be developed after consideration of, and shall be modeled after, the teen court programs established pursuant to Section 80 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws and Section 40 of Chapter 24 of the Session Laws of the 1994 Extra Session. Specifically, the program shall:

- (1) Establish fair and equitable procedures for hearing cases of juveniles under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in the district pursuant to G.S. 7A-523 who are alleged to be (i) undisciplined or (ii) delinquent for an offense that would constitute an infraction or misdemeanor if committed by an adult. The procedures shall provide for "trial" and "sentencing" of teens by a jury of the juveniles' peers. Courts, district attorneys, law enforcement, school personnel, and Juvenile Intake Services may refer cases to the teen court programs;

- 1 (2) Provide community resources and dispositional alternatives for
2 juveniles adjudicated undisciplined or delinquent, including counseling,
3 substance abuse assessment and treatment, and community service,
4 through collaboration among the courts, local law enforcement, the
5 schools, and community agencies and programs;
- 6 (3) Implement school-based mediation and conflict resolution programs for
7 middle, junior, and high school students in coordination with the local
8 school administrative units; and
- 9 (4) Educate and provide guidance for juveniles by involving them in all
10 aspects of the judicial system and by allowing them to take an active
11 role in the administration of justice in the courts and the mediation of
12 school disputes.

13 (c) The program established pursuant to this section shall report to the
14 Administrative Office of the Courts on the expenditures and operations of the program by
15 March 1, 1998, and thereafter on a quarterly basis. The Administrative Office of the
16 Courts shall evaluate the effectiveness of the program and report its findings and
17 recommendations to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and
18 to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and
19 Public Safety by April 15, 1998.

20 Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.