

Glossary of Frequently Used Fiscal Terms

A-D FELONIES: The most serious and violent felonies. These felony classes automatically result in an active prison sentence. They typically involve crimes against people.

ACTIVE SENTENCE: An active prison sentence requires that the offender be incarcerated, either in the prison system if a felon or in a county jail if a misdemeanor.

APPROPRIATION: An enactment by the General Assembly authorizing the withdrawal of money from the State treasury. Article V, Section 7 of the NC Constitution states that “no funds shall be drawn from the State treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law”. An enactment by the General Assembly that authorizes, specifies, or otherwise provides that funds may be used for a particular purpose is not an appropriation.

AUTHORIZED BUDGET: The certified budget with changes authorized by the Director of the Budget through authority granted in G.S. 143C-6-4 or other statutes.

BASE BUDGET: That part of the recommended State budget that provides the baseline for the next biennium. The base budget for each State agency shall be the authorized budget for that agency with adjustments only for the following:

- a. Annualization of programs and positions.
- b. Reductions to adjust for items funded with nonrecurring funds during the prior fiscal biennium.
- c. Increases to adjust for nonrecurring reductions during the prior fiscal biennium.
- d. Adjustments for federal payroll tax changes.
- e. Rate increases in accordance with the terms of existing leases of real property.
- f. Adjustments to receipt projections, made in accordance with G.S. 143C-3-5(b)(2)c.
- g. Reconciliation of intragovernmental and intergovernmental transfers.

BOILERPLATE: Budget language that is typically repeated year after year without alteration in the budget bill. For example, seized-asset expenditure reporting requirements are boilerplate.

CARRY-FORWARDS: Funds appropriated but unspent in the first fiscal year of a biennium which by authorized budget revision are brought forward for expenditure in the second fiscal year of the same biennium.

CERTIFIED BUDGET: The budget as enacted by the General Assembly including adjustments made for (i) distributions to State agencies from statewide reserves appropriated by the General Assembly, (ii) distributions of reserves appropriated to a specific agency by the General Assembly, and (iii) organizational or budget changes mandated by the General Assembly.

COMMUNITY PUNISHMENT: One of two types of “non-active” sentences that may be imposed by the courts. The Justice Reinvestment Act re-defined “community punishment” as any punishment that does not include an active sentence, assignment to a drug treatment court, or

special probation. JRA essentially eliminated the distinction between community and intermediate punishment, so that community sentences may include any one of the probation conditions set out in G.S. 15A-1343(a1). As under the prior law, community punishment can include either supervised or unsupervised probation.

CONFINEMENT IN RESPONSE TO VIOLATION (CRV): A new sanction created by JRA. An offender who repeatedly violates the terms of their probation may be subjected to a 90-day CRV term rather than having their probation revoked entirely.

E-I FELONIES: Less serious crimes that can result in an active or suspended sentence, depending upon the crime and the prior record level of offender. These are typically crimes against property.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS: Accounts for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. Activities are required to be reported as enterprise funds if any one of the following criteria is met. Each of these criteria should be applied in the context of the activity's principal revenue sources.

- a. The activity is financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges of the activity.
- b. Laws or regulations require that the activity's costs of providing services, including capital costs, be recovered with fees and charges rather than with taxes or similar revenues.
- c. The pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs.

EXPANSION BUDGET: The recommendations to increase funding for existing programs, to establish new programs, to provide for salary increases, and to provide for increases in enrollments, caseloads and institutional populations.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE): The figure arrived at by converting an unduplicated head-count of full-time and part-time program participants to an equivalent full-time count. For example one forty-hour per week employee plus one twenty-hour per week employee equals 1.5 FTE.

GENERAL FUND: A pool of financial resources made up of a beginning credit balance, State tax revenues, and State non-tax revenues. These funds are appropriated for both the operation of State agencies and construction and renovation of State facilities.

HABITUAL FELON: A habitual felon is an offender with at least three prior felony convictions (each conviction having occurred before he or she committed the next offense) who has currently been convicted of a felony offense and who has been found by a jury to be a habitual felon. Habitual felons are sentenced four classes higher (up to Class C) than other offenders would be for the same crime.

INCARCERATION NOTE: An estimate of the cost of a bill that increases or creates new criminal penalties. G.S. 120-36.7(d) requires an incarceration note be prepared on every bill, resolution, or amendment introduced in the General Assembly “proposing any change in the law that could cause a net increase in the length of time for which persons are incarcerated or the number of persons incarcerated, whether by increasing penalties for violating existing laws, by criminalizing behavior, or by any other means.” Incarceration Notes generally take two weeks to complete.

INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT: The second type of non-active sentences that may be imposed by the courts. The Justice Reinvestment Act changed the definition of an intermediate punishment so that the court is no longer required to impose any particular conditions to define the sentence as intermediate. The same conditions may be placed on an offender under either community or intermediate punishment, depending on the risk-needs level of the offender. The only mandatory component of an intermediate sentence as redefined by JRA is that the offender is placed on supervised probation.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT (JRA): A law passed in 2011 that made significant changes to corrections and sentencing laws in North Carolina. JRA expanded the requirement for post-release supervision to include all felons, increased the authority delegated to probation officers, limited the authority of judges to revoke probation, created a new early release program called Advanced Supervised Release, and modified the habitual felon law. The law applies to crimes committed after December 1, 2011.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC): Each JCPC Council is comprised of members appointed by the county commissioners of each county. Councils provide county-specific planning and oversight of community based programs, substance abuse treatment, and gang prevention strategies. There are 99 councils (Orange and Chatham have a joint council).

LAPSED SALARY FUNDS: Lapsed salary funds are surpluses that accrue because a position may be temporarily vacant due to delays in hiring, resignation, termination, or retirement. Lapsed salary surpluses are nonrecurring funds that accumulate only while a position vacancy exists. They may not be used to support recurring expenses.

MANAGEMENT FLEXIBILITY RESERVE: A reduction to an agency's operating budget that does not specify the fund codes or line items from which the reduction is to be taken, but instead requires the agency to determine where reductions should be made.

MISDEMEANANTS: Misdemeanor crimes are classified into four classes (Class A1, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3). The most serious misdemeanor crimes are in Class A1 and the least serious are in Class 3. Misdemeanants serve active sentences in county jails.

NEGATIVE RESERVE: See Management Flexibility Reserve.

NONRECURRING: Term used to denote one-time revenues (windfalls, reversions) or one-time expenditures (grant-in-aid, capital).

POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION (PRS): Mandatory supervision of previously incarcerated individuals by probation officers in the community. All B-1 through E felons are required to serve twelve months of PRS. F through I felons must serve nine months of PRS.

RECIDIVISM: For our Subcommittee's purposes, we define recidivism as rearrests.

RECURRING: Term used to denote revenues or expenditures that will be continuing, such as sales and personal income taxes, or salaries, fringe benefits, and utilities.

REVERSIONS: Unspent appropriations returned to the General Fund or Highway Fund (as applicable) at the end of each fiscal year.

SALARY RESERVE: Unobligated or surplus funds generated by a position that is filled at a salary less than the budgeted salary authorized by the General Assembly. These funds are recurring.

SENTENCING COMMISSION: The North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. The 28-member commission makes recommendations to the General Assembly for the modification of sentencing laws and policies, and for the addition, deletion, or expansion of sentencing options as necessary to achieve policy goals.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS: Language contained in the appropriations bill pertaining to State fiscal matters, the management, evaluation, and oversight of State government programs or policy, and the expenditure of appropriations contained in the Bill.

SPECIAL FUNDS: Accounts for the proceeds of specific revenue sources, other than trusts for individuals, private organizations, or other governments or for major capital projects, that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

STATE AID FOR NONSTATE ENTITIES: Funds appropriated by the General Assembly to nongovernmental entities for a variety of purposes. Funds may or may not carry restrictions on expenditures.

STATEWIDE MISDEMEANANT CONFINEMENT FUND: A special fund that receives revenue from designated court fees. The fund is used to pay counties for housing misdemeanants longer than 90 days. It is managed by the NC Sheriffs' Association.

STRUCTURED SENTENCING: The method of sentencing and punishing criminals in North Carolina. Sentencing policies should be rational, transparent, and consistent. The system classifies offenders on the basis of the severity of their crime and on the extent and gravity of their prior criminal record. Based on these two factors, structured sentencing provides judges with sentencing options for the type and length of sentences which may be imposed.

SWORN POSITION: A law enforcement position which, by law, has general power of arrest and requires the successful completion of the Basic Law Enforcement Training curriculum

offered by the State and an independent oath of office providing for the execution of the laws of the State. Sworn positions receive a higher retirement contribution than regular State employees.

TREATMENT FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (TECS): Program within the Division of Adult Correction, Community Corrections Section that provides community treatment services through fee-for-service contracts with local providers.

TRUST FUNDS: Accounts consisting of resources received and held by the State as trusted to be expended or invested in accordance with the conditions of the trust. In other words, Trust Funds are accounts where the State acts as a trustee. The State can only execute the terms of the trust; it cannot change the purpose for which the trust was created. Trust funds are classified as to what assets, if any, may be paid out of the fund. The three classifications are (1) expendable, (2) non-expendable, or (3) expendable as to income but unexpendable as to principal.