



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Reuben Young, Interim Chief Deputy Secretary
Kenneth E. Lassiter, Director of Prisons

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *EAH*
Reuben F. Young, Interim Chief Deputy Secretary *RFY*

RE: Reimburse Counties for Housing and Extraordinary Medical Costs for Inmates, Parolees, and Post-Release Supervisees Awaiting Transfer to State Prison System

DATE: February 1, 2019

Pursuant to Section 16C.2. of Session Law 2017-57, Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-6-9, the Department of Public Safety may use funds available to the Department for the 2017--2019 fiscal biennium to pay the sum of forty dollars (\$40.00) per day as reimbursement to counties for the cost of housing convicted inmates, parolees, and post-release supervisees awaiting transfer to the State prison system, as provided in G.S. 148-29. The Department shall report annually by February 1 of each year to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety on the expenditure of funds to reimburse counties for prisoners awaiting transfer.

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North Carolina prisons continue to experience high levels of staff vacancies that create serious concerns related to the safe and secure operations of facilities. One effort to improve safety for staff and offenders is to reduce the offender population at facilities where staffing levels are not sufficient to manage offenders at facility capacity. As a result, in June 2018 Prisons began backlogging offenders sentenced to serve terms of incarceration in the state prison system in county jails. The Department of Public Safety is increasing efforts to recruit and retain staff, enhancing facility security through other means such as deployment of new equipment and technology, and modifying policies to promote operational efficiencies, all of which are aimed at improving security and reducing reliance on county jails to house the backlogged offenders. For calendar year 2018, the department incurred jail backlog costs of \$1.1 million, as depicted in the table below:

Year	Month	Days Invoiced	Amount Invoiced to Prisons	Amount Paid to Jails	Balance Owed to Jails
2018	June	44	\$1,760.00	\$1,760.00	0.00
2018	July	757	\$30,280.00	\$30,280.00	0.00
2018	August	684	\$27,360.00	\$19,840.00	\$7,520.00
2018	September	391	\$15,640.00	\$15,640.00	0.00
2018	October	142	\$5,680.00	\$3,640.00	\$2,040.00
2018	November	7,705	\$308,200.00	\$211,320.00	\$96,880.00
2018	December	19,414	\$776,560.00	\$43,320.00	\$733,240.00
	Totals:	29,137	\$1,165,480.00	\$325,800.00	\$839,680.00