



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS DIVISION**

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**TO:** Members of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

**FROM:** Wayne Woodard, Director

**DATE:** August 1, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Establishment of Fees for the Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers Firearms Qualification Certification Program

In order to comply with federal legislation passed by Congress in 2005, which allows trained retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms nationwide, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified House Bill 1231 on August 1, 2007. The bill was signed into law on August 27, 2007 and became effective on December 1, 2007.

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission was tasked with the development and implementation of a statewide program to "establish standards and guidelines for the annual firearms certification of qualified retired law enforcement officers." As a result, the Commission is requesting the adoption of a new Sub-Chapter of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Title 12, Chapter 9.

Sub-Chapter 09H, Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers, Section .0100, Firearms Qualification Certification Program, outlines the requirements that qualified retired law enforcement officers must meet in order to carry concealed handguns (See Attachment 1).

The legislation includes a provision to allow the Commission to charge reasonable fees for both the initial firearms certification and the annual renewal of firearms certification under this program.

The proposed fees are:

Initial Certification:	\$50
Annual Renewal:	\$25

Figures from the NC Retirement Systems indicate an average of 1000 officers have retired in NC annually over the past five years. In addition, many retired law enforcement officers from other states reside in North Carolina. It is difficult to predict how many retired officers may elect to participate in the program, but it is estimated that as many as 1500 officers may apply for certification during the first year, for revenue of \$75,000.

Duties for administering this program will be performed by a Criminal Justice Specialist III position (pay grade 70). These duties will initially be assigned to an existing position. The program will also require data-entry by a Processing Assistant position, as well as modification and update of the Division's existing database system in order to accommodate the record-keeping requirements of the program. The fees are necessary to offset the cost of managing the new program and for an additional staff person.