

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS15031-LMf-21B

Short Title: Police Funding Protection Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Edwards, Sanderson, and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROVIDING THAT CITIES AND COUNTIES THAT REDUCE FUNDS FOR LAW
3 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BY AN AMOUNT
4 THAT EXCEEDS ONE PERCENT OF THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN ANY FISCAL
5 YEAR FOR ALL OTHER CITY OR COUNTY EMPLOYEES OR DEPARTMENTS, OR
6 BOTH, SHALL RECEIVE A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN STATE-SHARED
7 REVENUE AND DIRECTING THE NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE
8 EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION AND THE NORTH
9 CAROLINA SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION
10 TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT
11 COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
12 EQUIPMENT INVENTORY STANDARDS, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
13 STANDARDS, AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT STANDARDS.

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 SECTION 1. Article 3 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
16 the following new sections to read:

17 **"§ 159-16.1. City budget amendment reducing law enforcement.**

18 (a) If, in any fiscal year, the governing body of a city:

19 (1) Reduces funds appropriated in its annual budget for (i) compensation for
20 full-time sworn law enforcement officers certified by the North Carolina
21 Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, or (ii) police
22 department operating expenses, including personnel, equipment, and capital
23 projects, or (iii) both, by an amount that exceeds one percent (1%) of the funds
24 appropriated in that fiscal year for compensation for all other full-time city
25 employees, or operating expenses for all other city departments, or both, the
26 city's share of funds under G.S. 136-41.1 shall be reduced by that amount in
27 that fiscal year. If the amount over one percent (1%) exceeds the city's share
28 of funds under G.S. 136-41.1, the city's share of funds distributed pursuant to
29 Articles 39, 40, and 42 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes,
30 G.S. 105-164.44K, 105-164.44F, 105-164.44I, 105-164.44L, 105-113.82, and
31 105-187.19(c) shall be reduced, in that order, in that fiscal year, until the
32 remaining balance of the amount exceeding one percent (1%) has been
33 satisfied.

34 (2) Eliminates or reallocates one hundred percent (100%) of the funds
35 appropriated in its annual budget for (i) compensation for full-time sworn law
36 enforcement officers certified by the North Carolina Criminal Justice



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Education and Training Standards Commission, or (ii) police department operating expenses, including personnel, equipment, and capital projects, or (iii) both, the city shall be ineligible to receive funds distributed pursuant to G.S. 136-41.1, 105-113.82, 105-164.44F, 105-164.44I, 105-164.44K, 105-164.44L, 105-187.19(c), or Articles 39, 40, and 42 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes in that fiscal year.

(b) Any funds distributed pursuant to G.S. 136-41.1, 105-113.82, 105-164.44F, 105-164.44I, 105-164.44K, 105-164.44L, 105-187.19(c), or Articles 39, 40, and 42 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes after a city's governing body has reduced, eliminated, or reallocated funds as described in subsection (a) of this section shall be returned to the State in the fiscal year in which they were distributed.

(c) No later than 15 days after city funds have been reduced, eliminated, or reallocated as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the city's finance officer shall submit a written report describing the action to the Secretary of the Department of Revenue, Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee and House Appropriations Committee, Office of State Budget and Management, and Fiscal Research Division.

(d) If a city's share of funds is reduced under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section or a city is required to return funds under subsection (b) of this section because it reduced funds under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, the governing body of the city may submit a request, in writing, to the Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee and House Appropriations Committee asking that the Committees meet jointly to review the city's reduction of funds for law enforcement for purposes of determining whether it was reasonable. If the joint committee finds the city's reduction of funds was reasonable and did not cause significant negative impact to public safety, the joint committee may recommend to the full General Assembly that the city's share of funds be restored.

"§ 159-16.2. County budget amendment reducing law enforcement.

(a) If, in any fiscal year, the governing body of a county, after complying with the provisions of G.S. 153A-92(b)(3), reduces funds appropriated in its annual budget for (i) full-time deputy sheriffs certified by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission, or (ii) sheriff's office operating expenses, including personnel, equipment, and capital projects, or (iii) both, by an amount that exceeds one percent (1%) of the funds appropriated in that fiscal year for salaries, allowances, or other compensation of all other full-time county employees, or operating expenses for all other county departments, or both, the county's share of funds distributed pursuant to Articles 39, 40, and 42 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes and G.S. 105-113.82, 105-164.44I, and 105-187.19, shall be reduced, in that order, in that fiscal year, to equal the amount over one percent (1%).

(b) Any funds distributed pursuant to G.S. 105-113.82, 105-164.44I, 105-187.19, and Articles 39, 40, and 42 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes after a county's governing body has reduced funds as described in subsection (a) of this section shall be returned to the State in the fiscal year in which they were distributed.

(c) No later than 15 days after county funds have been reduced as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the county's finance officer shall submit a written report describing the action to the Secretary of the Department of Revenue, Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee and House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, Office of State Budget and Management, and Fiscal Research Division.

(d) If a county's share of funds is reduced under subsection (a) of this section or the county is required to return funds under subsection (b) of this section, the county's governing body may submit a request, in writing, to the Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee and House Appropriations Committee asking that the Committees meet jointly to review the county's reduction of funds for the sheriff's office for purposes of determining whether it was reasonable. If the joint committee finds the county's reduction of funds was reasonable and did

1 not cause significant negative impact to public safety, the joint committee may recommend to
2 the full General Assembly that the county's share of funds be restored."

3 **SECTION 2.** No later than October 1, 2021, the North Carolina Criminal Justice
4 Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and
5 Training Standards Commission shall each submit recommendations to the Joint Legislative
6 Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the following for law enforcement agencies
7 under their jurisdiction: (i) minimum equipment inventory law enforcement agencies should have
8 available for their use, including vehicles, firearms, body protection, ammunition, and chemical
9 munitions; (ii) minimum standards for maintaining the equipment; and (iii) minimum standards
10 for determining when the equipment should be replaced. In developing the recommendations,
11 each Commission shall consider events that impact law enforcement readiness and effectiveness,
12 including riots and civil unrest, as well as the size of the population and violent crime rates in
13 communities served by law enforcement agencies in the State.

14 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.