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Short Title: Iryna's Law.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 6, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENACT IRYNA'S LAW; TO MODIFY THE LAW RELATED TO PRETRIAL RELEASE CONDITIONS; TO ADD AN AGGRAVATING SENTENCING FACTOR; TO MODIFY SUSPENSION OF MAGISTRATES; TO DIRECT THE COLLABORATORY TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM; TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN TASK FORCES; TO MODIFY DEATH PENALTY PROCEEDINGS; TO MODIFY THE PROCEDURES FOR INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT OF A DEFENDANT FOUND INCAPABLE OF PROCEEDING; TO EXTEND TERMS OF PROBATION AND POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION FOR YOUTH ADJUDICATED OF CERTAIN VIOLENT OFFENSES AND TO CLARIFY A VICTIM'S RIGHT TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT TERMINATION OF PROBATION OR POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION; AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN JUDICIAL DISTRICT 26 AND TO REQUIRE CERTAIN INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT RESPONDENTS TO REMAIN IN CUSTODY PENDING HEARING.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

MODIFY THE LAW RELATED TO PRETRIAL RELEASE CONDITIONS

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 15A-501 reads as rewritten:

"§ 15A-501. Police processing and duties upon arrest generally.

Upon the arrest of a person, with or without a warrant, but not necessarily in the order hereinafter listed, a law-enforcement officer:

- (1) Must inform the person arrested of the charge against him or the cause for his arrest.
- (2) Must, with respect to any person arrested without a warrant and, for purpose of setting bail, with respect to any person arrested upon a warrant or order for arrest, take the person arrested before a judicial official without unnecessary delay.

(2a) Must inform any judicial official determining conditions of pretrial release pursuant to Article 26 of this Chapter of any relevant behavior of the defendant observed by the officer prior to, during, or after the arrest that may provide reasonable grounds for the judicial official to believe the defendant is a danger to themselves or others.



- 1 (3) May, prior to taking the person before a judicial official, take the person
2 arrested to some other place if the person so requests.
- 3 (4) May, prior to taking the person before a judicial official, take the person
4 arrested to some other place if such action is reasonably necessary for the
5 purpose of having that person identified.
- 6 (5) Must without unnecessary delay advise the person arrested of his right to
7 communicate with counsel and friends and must allow him reasonable time
8 and reasonable opportunity to do so.
- 9 (6) Must make available to the State on a timely basis all materials and
10 information acquired in the course of all felony investigations. This
11 responsibility is a continuing affirmative duty."

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 15A-531 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 15A-531. Definitions.**

14 As used in this Article the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires
15 otherwise:

- 16 ...
- 17 (9) "Violent offense" means any of the following:
- 18 a. Any Class A through G felony that includes assault, the use of physical
19 force against a person, or the threat of physical force against a person,
20 as an essential element of the offense.
- 21 b. Any felony offense requiring registration pursuant to Article 27A of
22 Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, whether or not the person is
23 currently required to register.
- 24 c. An offense under G.S. 14-17, and any other offense listed in
25 G.S. 15A-533(b).
- 26 d. An offense under G.S. 14-18.4, 14-34.1, 14-51, 14-54(a1), 14-202.1,
27 14-277.3A, or 14-415.1, or an offense under G.S. 90-95(h)(4c) that
28 involves fentanyl.
- 29 e. Any offense that is an attempt to commit an offense described in this
30 subdivision."

31 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 15A-533 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 15A-533. Right to pretrial release in capital and noncapital cases.**

33 (a) A defendant charged with any crime, whether capital or noncapital, who is alleged to
34 have committed this crime while still residing in or subsequent to his escape or during an
35 unauthorized absence from involuntary commitment in a mental health facility designated or
36 licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services, and whose commitment is determined
37 to be still valid by the judge or judicial officer authorized to determine pretrial release to be valid,
38 has no right to pretrial release. In lieu of pretrial release, however, the individual shall be returned
39 to the treatment facility in which he was residing at the time of the alleged crime or from which
40 he escaped or absented himself for continuation of his treatment pending the additional
41 proceedings on the criminal offense.

42 (b) A judge shall determine in the judge's discretion whether a defendant charged with
43 any of the following crimes may be released before trial:

- 44 (1) G.S. 14-17 (First or second degree murder) or an attempt to commit first or
45 second degree murder.
- 46 (2) G.S. 14-27.21 (First degree forcible rape).
- 47 (3) G.S. 14-27.22 (Second degree forcible rape).
- 48 (4) G.S. 14-27.23 (Statutory rape of a child by an adult).
- 49 (5) G.S. 14-27.24 (First degree statutory rape).
- 50 (6) G.S. 14-27.25 (Statutory rape of person who is 15 years of age or younger).
- 51 (7) G.S. 14-27.26 (First degree forcible sexual offense).

- 1 (8) G.S. 14-27.27 (Second degree forcible sexual offense).
- 2 (9) G.S. 14-27.28 (Statutory sexual offense with a child by an adult).
- 3 (10) G.S. 14-27.29 (First degree statutory sexual offense).
- 4 (11) G.S. 14-27.30 (Statutory sexual offense with a person who is 15 years of age
- 5 or younger).
- 6 (12) G.S. 14-32(a) (Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting
- 7 serious injury).
- 8 (13) G.S.14-34.1 (Discharging certain barreled weapons or a firearm into occupied
- 9 property).
- 10 (14) G.S. 14-39 (First or second degree kidnapping).
- 11 (15) G.S. 14-43.11 (Human trafficking).
- 12 (16) First degree burglary pursuant to G.S. 14-51.
- 13 (17) First degree arson pursuant to G.S. 14-58.
- 14 (18) G.S. 14-87 (Robbery with firearms or other dangerous weapons).

15 If There shall be a rebuttable presumption that no condition of release will reasonably assure
16 the appearance of the person as required and the safety of the community for a defendant charged
17 with a crime listed under any of the subdivisions of this subsection. However, if the judge
18 determines that release is warranted for a defendant charged with a crime listed under any of the
19 subdivisions of this subsection, the judge shall set conditions of pretrial release in accordance
20 with G.S. 15A-534.

21 A defendant charged with a noncapital offense that is not listed under any of the subdivisions
22 of this subsection, must otherwise have conditions of pretrial release determined, in accordance
23 with G.S. 15A-534.

24 (b1) If a defendant is (i) charged with a violent offense and, after a search of the court
25 records for the defendant, the judicial official determines that the defendant has previously been
26 subject to an order of involuntary commitment, pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the
27 General Statutes, within the prior three years, or (ii) charged with any offense and the judicial
28 official has reasonable grounds to believe the defendant is a danger to themselves or others, the
29 judicial official shall set conditions of pretrial release in accordance with this Article and shall
30 issue an order that includes all of the following:

- 31 (1) Require the defendant to receive an initial examination by a commitment
32 examiner, as defined in G.S. 122C-3, to determine if there are grounds to
33 petition for involuntary commitment of the defendant pursuant to Article 5 of
34 Chapter 122C of the General Statutes. This examination shall comply with
35 and satisfy the requirements of the initial examination as provided in
36 G.S. 122C-263(c).
- 37 (2) Require the arresting officer to immediately transport, or cause to be
38 transported by an officer of the arresting officer's agency, the defendant to a
39 hospital emergency department or other crisis facility with certified
40 commitment examiners for the initial examination. If the defendant has met
41 all other conditions of pretrial release, the transporting officer may release the
42 defendant after the initial examination is conducted if one of the following
43 criteria is met:
 - 44 a. No petition for involuntary commitment is filed pursuant to Article 5
45 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes.
 - 46 b. A petition for involuntary commitment is filed pursuant to Article 5 of
47 Chapter 122C of the General Statutes, but no custody order is issued
48 pursuant to G.S. 122C-261.
- 49 (3) Require the commitment examiner, after conducting the initial examination,
50 to do one of the following:

- 1 a. Petition for involuntary commitment of the defendant pursuant to
2 Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes, if there are grounds
3 for that petition.
- 4 b. Provide written notice to the judicial official that entered the order for
5 initial examination that there are no grounds to petition for involuntary
6 commitment of the defendant.
- 7 (4) Provide that, except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, whether
8 or not the defendant has met all other conditions of pretrial release, if a petition
9 for involuntary commitment is filed pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 122C of
10 the General Statutes, the custody of the defendant shall be determined
11 pursuant to the provisions of that Article during the pendency of that petition
12 and any hearings and orders issued pursuant to that Article.
- 13 (5) Provide that if a defendant has not met all other conditions of pretrial release,
14 if one of the following criteria is met, the defendant shall be transported to and
15 held in the local confinement facility of the county where the conditions of
16 pretrial release were set until all conditions of pretrial release have been met:
- 17 a. A petition for involuntary commitment is not filed pursuant to Article
18 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes.
- 19 b. A custody order is not issued pursuant to G.S. 122C-261.
- 20 c. At any other time, the provisions of Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the
21 General Statutes would result in the release of the defendant.
- 22 (c) A judge may determine in his discretion whether a defendant charged with a capital
23 offense may be released before trial. If he determines release is warranted, the judge must
24 authorize release of the defendant in accordance with G.S. 15A-534.
- 25 (d) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that no condition of release will reasonably
26 assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety of the community if a judicial
27 official finds the following:
- 28 (1) There is reasonable cause to believe that the person committed an offense
29 involving trafficking in a controlled substance;
- 30 (2) The drug trafficking offense was committed while the person was on pretrial
31 release for another offense; and
- 32 (3) The person has been previously convicted of a Class A through E felony or an
33 offense involving trafficking in a controlled substance and not more than five
34 years has elapsed since the date of conviction or the person's release from
35 prison for the offense, whichever is later.
- 36 (e) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that no condition of release will reasonably
37 assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety of the community, if a judicial
38 official finds all of the following:
- 39 (1) There is reasonable cause to believe that the person committed an offense for
40 the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with, any criminal gang, as
41 defined in G.S. 14-50.16A(1).
- 42 (2) The offense described in subdivision (1) of this subsection was committed
43 while the person was on pretrial release for another offense.
- 44 (3) The person (i) has been previously convicted of an offense described in
45 G.S. 14-50.16 through G.S. 14-50.20 or (ii) has been convicted of a criminal
46 offense and received an enhanced sentence for that offense pursuant to
47 G.S. 15A-1340.16E, and not more than five years has elapsed since the date
48 of conviction or the person's release for the offense, whichever is later.
- 49 (f) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that no condition of release will reasonably
50 assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety of the community, if a judicial
51 official finds there is reasonable cause to believe that the person committed a felony or Class A1

1 misdemeanor offense involving the illegal use, possession, or discharge of a firearm; and the
2 judicial official also finds any of the following:

3 (1) The offense was committed while the person was on pretrial release for
4 another felony or Class A1 misdemeanor offense involving the illegal use,
5 possession, or discharge of a firearm.

6 (2) The person has previously been convicted of a felony or Class A1
7 misdemeanor offense involving the illegal use, possession, or discharge of a
8 firearm and not more than five years have elapsed since the date of conviction
9 or the person's release for the offense, whichever is later.

10 (g) Persons who are considered for bond under the provisions of subsections (d), (e), and
11 (f) of this section may only be released by a district or superior court judge upon a finding that
12 there is a reasonable assurance that the person will appear and release does not pose an
13 unreasonable risk of harm to the community.

14 (h) If a defendant is arrested for a new offense allegedly committed while the defendant
15 was on pretrial release for another pending proceeding, the judicial official who determines the
16 conditions of pretrial release for the new offense shall be a judge. The judge shall direct a law
17 enforcement officer, pretrial services program, or a district attorney to provide a criminal history
18 report and risk assessment, if available, for the defendant and shall consider the criminal history
19 when setting conditions of pretrial release. After setting conditions of pretrial release, the judge
20 shall return the report to the providing agency or department. No judge shall unreasonably delay
21 the determination of conditions of pretrial release for the purpose of reviewing the defendant's
22 criminal history report. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a magistrate or the
23 clerk of superior court may set the conditions of pretrial release at any time if the new offense is
24 a violation of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes, other than a violation of G.S. 20-138.1,
25 20-138.2, 20-138.2A, 20-138.2B, 20-138.5, or 20-141.4.

26 A defendant may be retained in custody pursuant to this subsection not more than 48 hours
27 from the time of arrest without a judge making a determination of conditions of pretrial release.
28 If a judge has not acted pursuant to this subsection within 48 hours from the time of arrest of the
29 defendant, the magistrate shall set conditions of pretrial release in accordance with
30 G.S. 15A-534."

31 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 15A-534 reads as rewritten:

32 "**§ 15A-534. Procedure for determining conditions of pretrial release.**

33 (a) In determining conditions of pretrial release a judicial official must impose at least
34 one of the following conditions:

35 (1) ~~Release the defendant on his written promise to appear.~~

36 (2) Release the defendant upon his execution of an unsecured appearance bond in
37 an amount specified by the judicial official.

38 (3) Place the defendant in the custody of a designated person or organization
39 agreeing to supervise him.

40 (4) Require the execution of an appearance bond in a specified amount secured
41 by a cash deposit of the full amount of the bond, by a mortgage pursuant to
42 G.S. 58-74-5, or by at least one solvent surety.

43 (5) House arrest with electronic monitoring.

44 If condition (5) is imposed, the defendant must execute a secured appearance bond under
45 subdivision (4) of this subsection. If condition (3) is imposed, however, the defendant may elect
46 to execute an appearance bond under subdivision (4). If the defendant is required to provide
47 fingerprints pursuant to G.S. 15A-502(a1), (a2), (a4), or (a6), or a DNA sample pursuant to
48 G.S. 15A-266.3A or G.S. 15A-266.4, and (i) the fingerprints or DNA sample have not yet been
49 taken or (ii) the defendant has refused to provide the fingerprints or DNA sample, the judicial
50 official shall make the collection of the fingerprints or DNA sample a condition of pretrial
51 release. The judicial official may also place restrictions on the travel, associations, conduct, or

1 place of abode of the defendant as conditions of pretrial release. The judicial official may include
2 as a condition of pretrial release that the defendant abstain from alcohol consumption, as verified
3 by the use of a continuous alcohol monitoring system, of a type approved by the Division of
4 Community Supervision and Reentry of the Department of Adult Correction, and that any
5 violation of this condition be reported by the monitoring provider to the district attorney.

6 (b) ~~The~~ Except for a defendant charged with a violent offense, a judicial official in
7 granting pretrial release must impose condition (1), (2), (2) or (3) in subsection (a) above unless
8 he determines that such release will not reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as
9 required; will pose a danger of injury to any person; or is likely to result in destruction of
10 evidence, subornation of perjury, or intimidation of potential witnesses. Upon making the
11 determination, the judicial official must then impose condition (4) or (5) in subsection (a) above
12 instead of condition (1), (2), (2) or (3), and must record the reasons for so doing in writing to the
13 extent provided in the policies or requirements issued by the senior resident superior court judge
14 pursuant to G.S. 15A-535(a). However, if a defendant has been convicted of three or more
15 offenses, each of which is a Class 1 misdemeanor or higher offense, within the previous 10 years,
16 the judicial official must then impose condition (4) or (5) in subsection (a) of this section.

17 (b1) For a defendant charged with any violent offense, there shall be a rebuttable
18 presumption that no condition of release will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as
19 required and the safety of the community. However, if the judicial official determines that pretrial
20 release is appropriate for a defendant, the judicial official must do one of the following:

21 (1) For a defendant charged with a first violent offense, impose condition (4) or
22 (5) in subsection (a) of this section.

23 (2) For a defendant charged with a second or subsequent violent offense, after (i)
24 being convicted of a prior violent offense, or (ii) being released on pretrial
25 release conditions for a prior violent offense, impose condition (5) in
26 subsection (a) of this section, if available.

27 (c) In determining which conditions of release to impose, the judicial official shall direct
28 the arresting law enforcement officer, a pretrial services program, or a district attorney to provide
29 a criminal history report for the defendant and shall consider the criminal history when setting
30 conditions of pretrial release. Additionally, the judicial official must, on the basis of available
31 information, take into account the nature and circumstances of the offense charged; the weight
32 of the evidence against the defendant; the defendant's family ties, employment, financial
33 resources, character, housing situation, and mental condition; whether the defendant is
34 intoxicated to such a degree that he would be endangered by being released without supervision;
35 the length of his residence in the community; ~~his record of convictions;~~ his history of flight to
36 avoid prosecution or failure to appear at court proceedings; and any other evidence relevant to
37 the issue of pretrial release.

38 (d) The judicial official authorizing pretrial release under this section must issue an
39 appropriate order containing a statement of the conditions imposed, if any; inform the defendant
40 in writing of the penalties applicable to violations of the conditions of his release; and advise him
41 that his arrest will be ordered immediately upon any violation. In each and every order
42 authorizing pretrial release for (i) a defendant who is charged with a violent offense or (ii) a
43 defendant who has been convicted of three or more offenses in separate sessions of court, each
44 of which is a Class 1 misdemeanor or higher offense, within the previous 10 years, the judicial
45 official must make written findings of fact explaining the reasons why the judicial official
46 determined the conditions of release to be appropriate by applying the factors provided in
47 subsection (c) of this section. The order of release must be filed with the clerk and a copy given
48 the defendant and any surety, or the agent thereof who is executing the bond for the defendant's
49 release pursuant to that order.

50 (d1) ~~When~~ Except for a defendant charged with a violent offense, when conditions of
51 pretrial release are being imposed on a defendant who has failed on one or more prior occasions

1 to appear to answer one or more of the charges to which the conditions apply, the judicial official
2 shall at a minimum impose the conditions of pretrial release that are recommended in any order
3 for the arrest of the defendant that was issued for the defendant's most recent failure to appear. If
4 no conditions are recommended in that order for arrest, the judicial official shall require the
5 execution of a secured appearance bond in an amount at least double the amount of the most
6 recent previous secured or unsecured bond for the charges or, if no bond has yet been required
7 for the charges, in the amount of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The judicial official shall
8 also impose such restrictions on the travel, associations, conduct, or place of abode of the
9 defendant as will assure that the defendant will not again fail to appear. The judicial official shall
10 indicate on the release order that the defendant was arrested or surrendered after failing to appear
11 as required under a prior release order. If the information available to the judicial official
12 indicates that the defendant has failed on two or more prior occasions to appear to answer the
13 charges, the judicial official shall indicate that fact on the release order.

14 (d2) ~~When~~ Except for a defendant charged with a violent offense, when conditions of
15 pretrial release are being determined for a defendant who is charged with a felony offense and
16 the defendant is currently on probation for a prior offense, a judicial official shall determine
17 whether the defendant poses a danger to the public prior to imposing conditions of pretrial release
18 and must record that determination in writing. This subsection shall apply to any judicial official
19 authorized to determine or review the defendant's eligibility for release under any proceeding
20 authorized by this Chapter. After making a determination pursuant to this subsection, the judicial
21 official shall impose the following conditions:

- 22 (1) If the judicial official determines that the defendant poses a danger to the
23 public, the judicial official must impose condition (4) or (5) in subsection (a)
24 of this section instead of condition ~~(1), (2), (2)~~ or (3).
25 (2) If the judicial official finds that the defendant does not pose a danger to the
26 public, then conditions of pretrial release shall be imposed as otherwise
27 provided in this Article.
28 (3) If there is insufficient information to determine whether the defendant poses
29 a danger to the public, then the defendant shall be retained in custody until a
30 determination of pretrial release conditions is made pursuant to this
31 subdivision. The judicial official that orders that the defendant be retained in
32 custody shall set forth, in writing, the following at the time that the order is
33 entered:
34 a. The defendant is being held pursuant to this subdivision.
35 b. The basis for the judicial official's decision that additional information
36 is needed to determine whether the defendant poses a danger to the
37 public and the nature of the necessary information.
38 c. A date, within 72 hours or 96 hours if the courthouse is closed for
39 transactions for a period longer than 72 hours, of the time of arrest,
40 when the defendant shall be brought before a judge for a first
41 appearance pursuant to Article 29 of this Chapter. If the necessary
42 information is provided to the court at any time prior to the first
43 appearance, the first available judicial official shall set the conditions
44 of pretrial release. The judge who reviews the defendant's eligibility
45 for release at the first appearance shall determine the conditions of
46 pretrial release as provided in this Article.

47 (d3) When conditions of pretrial release are being determined for a defendant who is
48 charged with an offense and the defendant is currently on pretrial release for a prior offense, the
49 judicial official may require the execution of a secured appearance bond in an amount at least
50 double the amount of the most recent previous secured or unsecured bond for the charges or, if

1 no bond has yet been required for the charges, in the amount of at least one thousand dollars
2 (\$1,000).

3 (d4) When conditions of pretrial release are being determined for a defendant charged with
4 any felony, a Class A1 misdemeanor under Article 6A, Article 7B, or Article 8 of Chapter 14 of
5 the General Statutes, any violation of G.S. 50B-4.1, or any offense involving impaired driving as
6 defined in G.S. 20-4.01, the judicial official shall attempt to determine if the defendant is a legal
7 resident or citizen of the United States by an inquiry of the defendant, or by examination of any
8 relevant documents, or both. If the judicial official is unable to determine if the defendant is a
9 legal resident or citizen of the United States, the judicial official shall set conditions of pretrial
10 release pursuant to this Article and shall commit the defendant to an appropriate detention facility
11 pursuant to G.S. 15A-521 to be fingerprinted, for a query of Immigration and Customs
12 Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security, and to be held for a period
13 of two hours from the query of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States
14 Department of Homeland Security.

15 If by the end of this two-hour period no detainer and administrative warrant have been issued
16 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland
17 Security, the defendant shall be released pursuant to the terms and conditions of the release order.
18 If before the end of this two-hour period a detainer and administrative warrant issued by
19 Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security
20 have been received by the facility, the defendant shall be processed pursuant to G.S. 162-62(b1).

21 (e) A magistrate or a clerk may modify his pretrial release order at any time prior to the
22 first appearance before the district court judge. At or after such first appearance, except when the
23 conditions of pretrial release have been reviewed by the superior court pursuant to G.S. 15A-539,
24 a district court judge may modify a pretrial release order of the magistrate or clerk or any pretrial
25 release order entered by him at any time prior to:

- 26 (1) In a misdemeanor case tried in the district court, the noting of an appeal; and
- 27 (2) In a case in the original trial jurisdiction of the superior court, the binding of
28 the defendant over to superior court after the holding, or waiver, of a
29 probable-cause hearing.

30 After a case is before the superior court, a superior court judge may modify the pretrial release
31 order of a magistrate, clerk, or district court judge, or any such order entered by him, at any time
32 prior to the time set out in G.S. 15A-536(a).

33 (f) For good cause shown any judge may at any time revoke an order of pretrial release.
34 Upon application of any defendant whose order of pretrial release has been revoked, the judge
35 must set new conditions of pretrial release in accordance with this Article.

36 (g) In imposing conditions of pretrial release and in modifying and revoking orders of
37 release under this section, the judicial official must take into account all evidence available to
38 him which he considers reliable and is not strictly bound by the rules of evidence applicable to
39 criminal trials.

40 (h) A bail bond posted pursuant to this section is effective and binding upon the obligor
41 throughout all stages of the proceeding in the trial division of the General Court of Justice until
42 the entry of judgment in the district court from which no appeal is taken or the entry of judgment
43 in the superior court. The obligation of an obligor, however, is terminated at an earlier time upon
44 the occurrence of any of the following:

- 45 (1) A judge authorized to do so releases the obligor from the bond.
- 46 (2) The principal is surrendered by a surety in accordance with G.S. 15A-540.
- 47 (3) The proceeding is terminated by voluntary dismissal by the State before
48 forfeiture is ordered under G.S. 15A-544.3.
- 49 (4) Prayer for judgment has been continued indefinitely in the district court.
- 50 (5) The court has placed the defendant on probation pursuant to a deferred
51 prosecution or conditional discharge.

1 (6) The court's review of a juvenile's secure or nonsecure custody status pursuant
2 to remand under G.S. 7B-2603 or the removal under G.S. 15A-960 for
3 disposition as a juvenile case.

4 (i) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-146, s. 1(b), effective December 1, 2012."

5 **SECTION 1.(e)** G.S. 15A-535(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) In any county in which there is a pretrial release program, the senior resident superior
7 court judge may, after consultation with the chief district court judge, order that defendants
8 accepted by such program for supervision shall, with their consent, be released by judicial
9 officials to supervision of such programs, and subject to its rules and regulations, in lieu of
10 releasing the defendants on conditions ~~(1), (2), (2)~~ or (3) of G.S. 15A-534(a)."

11 **SECTION 1.(f)** G.S. 122C-54(d) reads as rewritten:

12 "(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any individual seeking confidential
13 information contained in the court files or the court records of a proceeding made pursuant to
14 Article 5 of this Chapter may file a written motion in the cause setting out why the information
15 is needed. A district court judge may issue an order to disclose the confidential information
16 sought if he finds the order is appropriate under the circumstances and if he finds that it is in the
17 best interest of the individual admitted or committed or of the public to have the information
18 disclosed.

19 Counsel for the respondent and counsel for the State in the commitment hearing may receive
20 access to the court file without filing a motion or obtaining a court order. A judge presiding over
21 a criminal case that initiated the Article 5 proceeding may have access to the file without filing a
22 motion.

23 Judicial officials determining whether a criminal defendant may be released before trial
24 pursuant to G.S. 15A-533 may have access to the defendant's records of proceedings made
25 pursuant to Article 5 of this Chapter for the purposes of determining whether a criminal defendant
26 has been involuntarily committed within the previous three years."

27 **SECTION 1.(g)** No later than the effective date of subsections (a) through (e) of this
28 section, each judicial district that does not already have the capability of imposing house arrest
29 with electronic monitoring under G.S. 15A-534(a)(5) shall enter into a Memorandum of
30 Agreement with a qualified vendor to provide such services. A defendant released with the
31 condition of house arrest with electronic monitoring shall be responsible for paying for the
32 services provided by the qualified vendor.

33 **SECTION 1.(h)** No later than the effective date of subsections (a) through (e) of this
34 section, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide a method for judicial officials to
35 determine if a defendant has a prior order of involuntary commitment, pursuant to Article 5 of
36 Chapter 122C of the General Statutes, for purposes of complying with subsections (a) through
37 (e) of this section.

38 **SECTION 1.(i)** No later than the effective date of subsections (a) through (e) of this
39 section, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop or modify any forms necessary to
40 implement this section. For any provision where a written finding of fact may be required, the
41 form, whether physical or electronic, shall provide a blank area for that written finding to be
42 entered.

43 **SECTION 1.(j)** Subsections (a) through (e) of this section become effective
44 December 1, 2025, and apply to persons appearing before a judicial official for the determination
45 of pretrial release conditions on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective when
46 it becomes law.

47 **ADD AN AGGRAVATING SENTENCING FACTOR**

48 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 15A-1340.16(d) reads as rewritten:

49 "(d) Aggravating Factors. – The following are aggravating factors:

50 ...
51

1 (19c) The offense was committed by the defendant while the victim was using a
2 public transportation system as defined in G.S. 160A-601.

3 (20) Any other aggravating factor reasonably related to the purposes of sentencing.

4 Evidence necessary to prove an element of the offense shall not be used to prove any factor
5 in aggravation, and the same item of evidence shall not be used to prove more than one factor in
6 aggravation. Evidence necessary to establish that an enhanced sentence is required under
7 G.S. 15A-1340.16A may not be used to prove any factor in aggravation.

8 The judge shall not consider as an aggravating factor the fact that the defendant exercised the
9 right to a jury trial.

10 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a1) of this section, the determination that an
11 aggravating factor under G.S. 15A-1340.16(d)(18a) is present in a case shall be made by the
12 court, and not by the jury. That determination shall be made in the sentencing hearing."

13 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 15A-2000(e) reads as rewritten:

14 "(e) Aggravating Circumstances. – Aggravating circumstances that may be considered are
15 limited to the following:

16 (1) The capital felony was committed by a person lawfully incarcerated.

17 (2) The defendant had been previously convicted of another capital felony or had
18 been previously adjudicated delinquent in a juvenile proceeding for
19 committing an offense that would be a capital felony if committed by an adult.

20 (3) The defendant had been previously convicted of a felony involving the use or
21 threat of violence to the person or had been previously adjudicated delinquent
22 in a juvenile proceeding for committing an offense that would be a Class A,
23 B1, B2, C, D, or E felony involving the use or threat of violence to the person
24 if the offense had been committed by an adult.

25 (4) The capital felony was committed for the purpose of avoiding or preventing a
26 lawful arrest or effecting an escape from custody.

27 (5) The capital felony was committed while the defendant was engaged, or was
28 an aider or abettor, in the commission of, or an attempt to commit, or flight
29 after committing or attempting to commit, any homicide, robbery, rape or a
30 sex offense, arson, burglary, kidnapping, or aircraft piracy or the unlawful
31 throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb.

32 (6) The capital felony was committed for pecuniary gain.

33 (7) The capital felony was committed to disrupt or hinder the lawful exercise of
34 any governmental function or the enforcement of laws.

35 (8) The capital felony was committed against a law-enforcement officer,
36 employee of the Department of Adult Correction, an employee of the Division
37 of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, jailer, fireman, judge
38 or justice, former judge or justice, prosecutor or former prosecutor, juror or
39 former juror, or witness or former witness against the defendant, while
40 engaged in the performance of official duties or because of the exercise of
41 official duty.

42 (9) The capital felony was especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel.

43 (10) The defendant knowingly created a great risk of death to more than one person
44 by means of a weapon or device that would normally be hazardous to the lives
45 of more than one person.

46 (11) The murder for which the defendant stands convicted was part of a course of
47 conduct in which the defendant engaged and that included the commission by
48 the defendant of other crimes of violence against another person or persons.

49 (12) The capital felony was committed by the defendant while the victim was using
50 a public transportation system as defined in G.S. 160A-601."

1 **SECTION 2.(c)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to
2 offenses committed on or after that date.

3
4 **MODIFY SUSPENSION OF MAGISTRATES**

5 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 7A-171.3 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 7A-171.3. Magistrate rules of conduct.**

7 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prescribe rules of conduct for all magistrates
8 not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States or inconsistent with the Constitution
9 of the State of North Carolina. The rules of conduct shall apply to all magistrates and shall include
10 rules governing the following:

- 11 (1) Standards of professional ~~conduct and timeliness.~~conduct, timeliness, and
12 conflicts of interest.
13 (2) Required duties and responsibilities.
14 (3) Methods for ethical decision making.
15 (4) Any other topic deemed relevant by the Administrative Office of the Courts."

16 **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 7A-173 reads as rewritten:

17 "**§ 7A-173. Suspension; removal; reinstatement.**

18 (a) A magistrate may be suspended from performing the duties of the magistrate's office
19 by the chief district judge of the district court district in which the magistrate's county of
20 appointment is ~~located.~~located, or upon order of the Chief Justice. A magistrate may be removed
21 from office by the senior regular resident superior court judge of, or any regular superior court
22 judge holding court in, the district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) in which the
23 magistrate's county of appointment is located. Grounds for suspension or removal are the same
24 as for a judge of the General Court of ~~Justice.~~Justice and also include the failure of a magistrate
25 to make statutorily required written findings.

26 (b) ~~Suspension~~Except as provided in subsection (b1) of this section, suspension from
27 performing the duties of the office may be ordered upon filing of sworn written charges in the
28 office of clerk of superior court for the county in which the magistrate was appointed. If the chief
29 district judge, upon examination of the sworn charges, finds that the charges, if true, constitute
30 grounds for removal, the chief district judge may enter an order suspending the magistrate from
31 performing the duties of the magistrate's office until a final determination of the charges on the
32 merits. During suspension the salary of the magistrate continues.

33 (b1) If the Chief Justice orders suspension, the order shall include the charges alleged that
34 constitute grounds for removal and shall be filed with the office of the clerk of superior court for
35 the county in which the magistrate was appointed. Upon receipt of the order, the clerk shall notify
36 the chief district judge who shall implement the suspension of the magistrate until a final
37 determination of the charges on the merits under subsection (c) of this section. During suspension
38 the salary of the magistrate continues.

39 (c) If a hearing, with or without suspension, is ordered, the magistrate against whom the
40 charges have been made shall be given immediate written notice of the proceedings and a true
41 copy of the charges, and the matter shall be set by the chief district judge for hearing before the
42 senior regular resident superior court judge or a regular superior court judge holding court in the
43 district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) in which the magistrate's county of
44 appointment is located. The hearing shall be held in a county within the district or set of districts
45 not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days after the magistrate has received a copy of the
46 charges. The hearing shall be open to the public. All testimony offered shall be recorded. At the
47 hearing the superior court judge shall receive evidence, and make findings of fact and conclusions
48 of law. If the judge finds that grounds for removal exist, the judge shall enter an order
49 permanently removing the magistrate from office, and terminating the magistrate's salary. If the
50 judge finds that no such grounds exist, he shall terminate the suspension, if any. Notwithstanding
51 the provisions of this subsection, if the judge finds that the only grounds for removal are the

1 failure of the magistrate to make statutorily required written findings, and the magistrate has no
2 prior charges of or suspensions for failure to make statutorily required written findings, the judge
3 shall not permanently remove the magistrate from office.

4 (d) A magistrate may appeal from an order of removal to the Court of Appeals on the
5 basis of error of law by the superior court judge. Pending decision of the case on appeal, the
6 magistrate shall not perform any of the duties of the magistrate's office. If, upon final
7 determination, the magistrate is ordered reinstated, either by the appellate division or by the
8 superior court on remand, the magistrate's salary shall be restored from the date of the original
9 order of removal."

10
11 **DIRECT THE COLLABORATORY TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH AND THE**
12 **JUSTICE SYSTEM**

13 **SECTION 4.** The North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory) shall study the
14 following:

- 15 (1) The intersection of mental health in the justice system for both adults and
16 juveniles in North Carolina, including initial response, mental health
17 evaluation, inpatient and outpatient involuntary commitment, incarceration,
18 post-release monitoring and treatment, and any other items the Collaboratory
19 deems relevant.
20 (2) The availability of house arrest as a condition of pretrial release in each county
21 or judicial district.
22 (3) Methods of execution other than those currently authorized by State law.

23 This study may include the issuance of one or more research awards to provide, as
24 necessary, planning grants for a preliminary investigation to (i) identify, obtain, and analyze
25 existing data, (ii) identify other critical data that could be acquired and analyzed, (iii) identify
26 appropriate stakeholder groups for engagement, (iv) develop a holistic and longer-term research
27 team and plan with a formal scope of work, time line, and deliverables, and (v) any other items
28 the Collaboratory deems relevant. The Collaboratory may also utilize these preliminary findings
29 to fund one or more awards for additional research to support this study.

30 Any unit of State or local government that receives a written request from the
31 Collaboratory, including an electronically transmitted request, shall cooperate and assist the
32 Collaboratory with this study by providing full access to personnel and data within 30 calendar
33 days of the request. Any information or data received that is confidential or not public record
34 shall remain confidential, shall be withheld from public inspection, shall be used only for the
35 purposes this study, and may not be publicly disclosed except as deidentified, aggregated
36 information or data.

37 The Collaboratory shall provide a preliminary report of its findings to the Joint
38 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations no later than April 1, 2026, and a final
39 report of its findings, including any policy or funding recommendations, no later than March 1,
40 2027.

41 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, of the funds appropriated to
42 The University of North Carolina (Budget Code 16020) for the North Carolina Policy
43 Collaboratory (Collaboratory) for the purposes described in Item 188 on Page B-56 of the
44 Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2021-180, the Collaboratory shall reallocate
45 up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the study required under this section, including
46 consultants or faculty, staff, or students affiliated with institutions of higher education.

47
48 **RESCIND/PROHIBIT TASK FORCE**

49 **SECTION 5.** The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, created by the
50 Governor's Executive Order No. 145, and extended by Executive Order No. 273, has expired and
51 that task force may not be recreated except by act of the General Assembly.

MODIFY DEATH PENALTY PROCEEDINGS

SECTION 6.(a) G.S. 15A-1415(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) In a capital case, a defendant may file a postconviction motion for appropriate relief based on any of the grounds enumerated in this section within 120 days from the latest of any of the following:

- (1) The court's judgment has been filed, but the defendant failed to perfect a timely appeal.
- (2) The mandate issued by a court of the appellate division on direct appeal pursuant to N.C.R. App. P. 32(b) and the time for filing a petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court has expired without a petition being filed.
- (3) The United States Supreme Court denied a timely petition for writ of certiorari of the decision on direct appeal by the Supreme Court of North Carolina.
- (4) Following the denial of discretionary review by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, the United States Supreme Court denied a timely petition for writ of certiorari seeking review of the decision on direct appeal by the North Carolina Court of Appeals.
- (5) The United States Supreme Court granted the defendant's or the State's timely petition for writ of certiorari of the decision on direct appeal by the Supreme Court of North Carolina or North Carolina Court of Appeals, but subsequently left the defendant's conviction and sentence undisturbed.
- (6) The appointment of postconviction counsel for an indigent capital defendant.

A hearing for a motion for appropriate relief based on grounds in this section shall be heard by the court within 24 months of the motion being filed. If the court continues the hearing beyond 24 months, it must make a written finding of extraordinary circumstances that provide good cause for a delay."

SECTION 6.(b) G.S. 15A-2000(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Review of Judgment and Sentence. –

- (1) The judgment of conviction and sentence of death is subject to automatic review by the Supreme Court of North Carolina pursuant to procedures established by the Rules of Appellate Procedure. In its review, the Supreme Court shall consider the punishment imposed as well as any arguments raised on appeal. The review shall occur within 24 months of entry of judgment unless the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court makes a written finding of extraordinary circumstances that provide good cause for a delay.

...."

SECTION 6.(c) Article 100 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 15A-2007. Postconviction venue for capital defendants.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the venue for any filing, claim, or proceeding related to the conviction, sentencing, treatment, housing, or execution of a defendant that has been convicted of a capital offense and sentenced to death shall be in the county of conviction. This section does not apply to matters that are authorized by law to be filed directly with the Supreme Court of North Carolina."

SECTION 6.(d) No later than the effective date of subsections (a) through (c) of this section, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop or modify any forms necessary to implement this section. For any provision where a written finding of fact may be required, the form, whether physical or electronic, shall provide a blank area for that written finding to be entered.

1 **SECTION 6.(e)** Subsections (a) and (b) of this section become effective December
2 1, 2025, and apply (i) to motions filed and judgments entered on or after that date and (ii) to
3 motions filed or judgments entered prior to that date, and any motions pending on that date,
4 except that any motion filed or judgment entered more than 24 months prior to that date shall be
5 heard or reviewed no later than December 1, 2027, and shall be scheduled for hearing or review
6 no later than December 1, 2026. Subsection (c) of this section becomes effective December 1,
7 2025, and applies to any filings made and any proceedings or hearings held on or after that date.
8 The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

9 **SECTION 6.5.(a)** G.S. 15-187 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 15-187. Death by administration of lethal drugs.penalty.**

11 ~~Death by electrocution under sentence of law and death by the administration of lethal gas~~
12 ~~under sentence of law are abolished.~~ Any person convicted of a criminal offense and sentenced
13 to death shall be executed in accordance with G.S. 15-188 and the remainder of this Article. The
14 default method of executing a death sentence shall be as described in G.S. 15-188(a). However,
15 if the method adopted in G.S. 15-188(a) is declared unconstitutional by a North Carolina court
16 of competent jurisdiction then the provisions in G.S. 15-188(b) shall apply. The warden of
17 Central Prison may obtain and employ the drugs and equipment necessary to carry out the
18 provisions of this Article, regardless of contrary provisions in Chapter 90 of the General
19 ~~Statutes.~~ Statutes; however, if the method of executing a death under G.S. 15-188(a) is
20 unavailable for any other reason, then the provisions in G.S. 15-188(b) shall apply."

21 **SECTION 6.5.(b)** G.S. 15-188 reads as rewritten:

22 **"§ 15-188. Manner and place of execution.**

23 (a) ~~In accordance with G.S. 15-187,~~ Unless subsection (b) of this section applies, the
24 mode of executing a death sentence must in every case be by administering to the convict or felon
25 an intravenous injection of a substance or substances in a lethal quantity sufficient to cause death
26 and until the person is dead, and that procedure shall be determined by the Secretary of the
27 Department of Adult Correction, who shall ensure compliance with the federal and State
28 constitutions; and when any person, convict or felon shall be sentenced by any court of the State
29 having competent jurisdiction to be so executed, the punishment shall only be inflicted within a
30 permanent death chamber which the superintendent of the State penitentiary is hereby authorized
31 and directed to provide within the walls of the North Carolina penitentiary at Raleigh, North
32 Carolina. The superintendent of the State penitentiary shall also cause to be provided, in
33 conformity with this Article, the necessary appliances for the infliction of the punishment of
34 death and qualified personnel to set up and prepare the injection, administer the preinjections,
35 insert the IV catheter, and to perform other tasks required for this procedure in accordance with
36 the requirements of this Article.

37 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction, within 120 days of notice of a
38 judgment being entered that the method in subsection (a) of this section has been declared
39 unconstitutional by a North Carolina court of competent jurisdiction or notice that the method of
40 execution provided for in subsection (a) of this section is not available, must select another
41 method of executing a death sentence that has been adopted by another state unless such method
42 has been declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. If the method of
43 execution selected under this subsection is then declared unconstitutional by a North Carolina
44 court of competent jurisdiction, then the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall
45 select another method within 120 days of notice of such a judgment being entered.

46 (c) The Department of Adult Correction shall establish protocols and procedures within
47 120 days once the Department of Adult Correction establishes a method of execution pursuant
48 to subsection (b) of this section. The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall
49 immediately schedule a date for the execution of the original death sentence not more than 60
50 days from upon the establishment of the protocols and procedures in this subsection, or within
51 the timeframe specified in G.S. 15-194, if applicable.

1 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall report within 14 days the
2 alternative method of execution chosen pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the Joint
3 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

4 (e) The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction shall
5 report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations in every case in which
6 a mode of execution under this section is challenged by a defendant, deemed unconstitutional by
7 a North Carolina court of competent jurisdiction or is not an available mode for some other reason
8 within 7 days of such event."

9 **SECTION 6.5.(c)** G.S. 15-188.1 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 15-188.1. Health care professional assistance.**

11 (a) Any assistance rendered with an execution under this Article by any licensed health
12 care professional, including, but not limited to, physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, shall not be
13 cause for any disciplinary or corrective measures by any board, commission, or other authority
14 created by the State or governed by State law which oversees or regulates the practice of health
15 care professionals, including, but not limited to, the North Carolina Medical Board, the North
16 Carolina Board of Nursing, and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

17 (b) The infliction of the punishment of death under this Article, including by
18 administration of ~~the required lethal substances under this Article~~ substances, shall not be
19 construed to be the practice of medicine."

20 **SECTION 6.5.(d)** G.S. 15-190(a) reads as rewritten:

21 "(a) Correction custody personnel or some other reliable person or persons to be named
22 and designated by the warden from time to time shall cause the person, convict or felon against
23 whom the death sentence has been so pronounced to be executed as provided by this Article and
24 all amendments thereto. The execution shall be under the general supervision and control of the
25 warden of the penitentiary, who shall from time to time, in writing, name and designate the
26 correctional custody personnel or other reliable person or persons who shall cause the person,
27 convict or felon against whom the death sentence has been pronounced to be executed as
28 provided by this Article and all amendments thereto. At such execution there shall be present the
29 warden or deputy warden or some person designated by the warden in the warden's place, and a
30 licensed physician, or a medical professional other than a physician, to monitor the injection of
31 the required lethal ~~substances~~ substances, if any, and certify the fact of the execution. If a licensed
32 physician is not present at the execution, then a licensed physician shall be present on the
33 premises and available to examine the body after the execution and pronounce the person dead.
34 Four respectable citizens, two members of the victim's family, the counsel and any relatives of
35 such person, convict or felon and a minister or member of the clergy or religious leader of the
36 person's choosing may be present if they so desire. The identities, including the names, residential
37 addresses, residential telephone numbers, and social security numbers, of witnesses or persons
38 designated to carry out the execution shall be confidential and exempted from Chapter 132 of the
39 General Statutes and are not subject to discovery or introduction as evidence in any proceeding.
40 The Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Wake County may order disclosure of names made
41 confidential by this section after making findings that support a conclusion that disclosure is
42 necessary to a proper administration of justice.

43 For purposes of this section, a "medical professional other than a physician" means a
44 physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, emergency medical technician, or
45 emergency medical technician-paramedic who is licensed or credentialed by the licensing board,
46 agency, or organization responsible for licensing or credentialing that profession."

47 **SECTION 6.5.(e)** G.S. 7A-27 reads as rewritten:

48 **"§ 7A-27. Appeals of right from the courts of the trial divisions.**

49 (a) Appeal lies of right directly to the Supreme Court in any of the following cases:

50 (1) All cases in which the defendant is convicted of murder in the first degree and
51 the judgment of the superior court includes a sentence of death.

- 1 (2) From any final judgment in a case designated as a mandatory complex
2 business case pursuant to G.S. 7A-45.4 or designated as a discretionary
3 complex business case pursuant to Rule 2.1 of the General Rules of Practice
4 for the Superior and District Courts.
5 (3) From any interlocutory order of a Business Court Judge that does any of the
6 following:
7 a. Affects a substantial right.
8 b. In effect determines the action and prevents a judgment from which an
9 appeal might be taken.
10 c. Discontinues the action.
11 d. Grants or refuses a new trial.
12 (4) Any trial court's decision regarding class action certification under G.S. 1A-1,
13 Rule 23.
14 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 2021-18, s. 1, effective July 1, 2021, and applicable
15 to appeals filed on or after that date.
16 (6) In all cases where a defendant has challenged a method of execution under
17 G.S. 15-188, and a trial court has declared the method unconstitutional.
18"

19 **SECTION 6.5.(f)** G.S. 150B-1(d) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
20 "(35) The Department of Adult Correction, with respect to the establishment and
21 administration of any method of execution pursuant to G.S. 15-188."
22

23 **MODIFY THE PROCEDURES FOR INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT OF A** 24 **DEFENDANT FOUND INCAPABLE OF PROCEEDING**

25 **SECTION 7.(a)** G.S. 15A-1003 reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 15A-1003. Referral of incapable defendant for civil commitment proceedings.**

27 (a) When a defendant is found to be incapable of proceeding, the presiding judge, upon
28 such additional hearing, if any, as he determines to be necessary, shall determine whether there
29 are reasonable grounds to believe the defendant meets the criteria for involuntary commitment
30 under Part 7 of Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes. If the presiding judge finds
31 reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant meets the criteria, he shall make findings of fact
32 and issue a custody order in the same manner, upon the same grounds and with the same effect
33 as an order issued by a clerk or magistrate pursuant to G.S. 122C-261. Proceedings thereafter are
34 in accordance with Part 7 of Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes. If the defendant
35 was charged with a violent crime, including a crime involving assault with a deadly weapon, the
36 judge's custody order shall require a law-enforcement officer to take the defendant directly to a
37 24-hour facility as described in G.S. 122C-252; and the order must indicate that the defendant
38 was charged with a violent crime and that he was found incapable of proceeding.

39 (a1) Prior to the dismissal of any charges pursuant to G.S. 15A-1008, if the defendant is
40 not subject to an involuntary commitment order issued pursuant to Part 7 of Article 5 of Chapter
41 122C of the General Statutes, the court shall make the determinations and findings required by
42 subsection (a) of this section upon motion of the district attorney.

43 (b) The court may make appropriate orders for the temporary detention of the defendant
44 pending that proceeding.

45 (c) Evidence used at the hearing with regard to capacity to proceed is admissible in the
46 involuntary civil commitment proceedings."

47 **SECTION 7.(b)** G.S. 15A-1008 reads as rewritten:

48 "**§ 15A-1008. Dismissal of charges.**

49 (a) When a defendant lacks capacity to proceed, the court shall dismiss the charges upon
50 the earliest of the following occurrences:

- 1 (1) When it appears to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant will not gain
2 capacity to proceed.
- 3 (2) When as a result of incarceration, involuntary commitment to an inpatient
4 facility, or other court-ordered confinement, the defendant has been
5 substantially deprived of his liberty for a period of time equal to or in excess
6 of the maximum term of imprisonment permissible for prior record Level VI
7 for felonies or prior conviction Level III for misdemeanors for the most
8 serious offense charged.
- 9 (3) Upon the expiration of a period of five years from the date of determination
10 of incapacity to proceed in the case of misdemeanor charges and a period of
11 10 years in the case of felony charges.

12 (b) A dismissal entered pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
13 be without leave.

14 (c) A dismissal entered pursuant to subdivision (1) or (3) of subsection (a) of this section
15 shall be issued without prejudice to the refile of the charges. ~~Upon the defendant becoming~~
16 ~~capable of proceeding, the prosecutor may reinstitute proceedings dismissed pursuant to~~
17 ~~subdivision (1) or (3) of subsection (a) of this section by filing written notice with the clerk, with~~
18 ~~the defendant, and with the defendant's attorney of record.~~

19 (d) Dismissal of criminal charges pursuant to this section shall be upon motion of the
20 prosecutor or the defendant or upon the court's own ~~motion~~ motion and shall not be expunged
21 pursuant to G.S. 15A-146."

22 **SECTION 7.(c)** G.S. 122C-268(c) reads as rewritten:

23 "(c) If the respondent's custody order indicates that ~~he~~ the respondent was charged with a
24 violent crime, including a crime involving an assault with a deadly weapon, and that ~~he~~ the
25 respondent was found incapable of proceeding, the clerk shall give notice of the time and place
26 of the hearing to the chief district judge and the district attorney in the county in which the
27 defendant was found incapable of proceeding as provided in G.S. 122C-264(d). The district
28 attorney in the county in which the respondent was found incapable of proceeding may represent
29 the State's interest at the hearing. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 122C-269, if the district
30 attorney elects to represent the State's interest, upon motion of the district attorney, the venue for
31 the hearing, rehearings, and supplemental rehearings shall be the county in which the respondent
32 was found incapable of proceeding."

33 **SECTION 7.(d)** G.S. 122C-277(b) reads as rewritten:

34 "(b) If the respondent was initially committed as the result of conduct resulting in ~~his~~ the
35 respondent being charged with a violent crime, including a crime involving an assault with a
36 deadly weapon, and respondent was found incapable of proceeding, 15 days before the
37 respondent's discharge or conditional release the ~~attending physician shall notify facility shall~~
38 notify the district attorney of the district where the respondent was found incapable of proceeding
39 and the clerk of superior court of the county in which the facility is located of his ~~the~~ attending
40 physician's determination regarding the proposed discharge or conditional release. The clerk shall
41 then schedule a rehearing to determine the appropriateness of respondent's release under the
42 standards of commitment set forth in G.S. 122C-271(b). The clerk shall give notice as provided
43 in G.S. 122C-264(d). The district attorney of the district where respondent was found incapable
44 of proceeding may represent the State's interest at the hearing. Notwithstanding the provisions of
45 G.S. 122C-269, if the district attorney elects to represent the State's interest, upon motion of the
46 district attorney, the venue for the hearing, rehearings, and supplemental rehearings shall be the
47 county in which the respondent was found incapable of proceeding."

48 **SECTION 7.(e)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025. Subsections (a)
49 and (b) of this section apply to dismissals and proceedings occurring on or after that date.
50 Subsections (c) and (d) of this section apply to commitment proceedings initiated on or after that
51 date.

1
2 **EXTEND TERMS OF PROBATION AND POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION FOR**
3 **YOUTH ADJUDICATED OF CERTAIN VIOLENT OFFENSES AND CLARIFY A**
4 **VICTIM'S RIGHT TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT TERMINATION OF PROBATION OR**
5 **POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION**

6 **SECTION 8.(a)** G.S. 7B-2510 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 7B-2510. Conditions of probation; violation of probation.**

8 ...

9 (c) An order of probation shall remain in force for a period not to exceed one year from
10 the date entered. ~~Prior~~ Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c1) of this section, prior to
11 expiration of an order of probation, the court may extend it for an additional period of one year
12 after notice and a hearing, if the court finds that the extension is necessary to protect the
13 community or to safeguard the welfare of the juvenile. At the discretion of the court, the hearing
14 to determine to extend probation may occur after the expiration of an order of probation at the
15 next regularly scheduled court date or if the juvenile fails to appear in court.

16 (c1) Prior to expiration of an order of probation entered for an adjudication of an offense
17 that would be a Class A, B1, or B2 felony if committed by an adult, the court may extend the
18 term of probation for additional periods of up to one year after notice and a hearing, if the court
19 finds that the extension is necessary to protect the community or to safeguard the welfare of the
20 juvenile. The total period of probation entered for an adjudication of an offense that would be a
21 Class A, B1, or B2 felony if committed by an adult shall not exceed three years. At the discretion
22 of the court, the hearing to determine to extend probation may occur after the expiration of an
23 order of probation at the next regularly scheduled court date or if the juvenile fails to appear in
24 court.

25 (d) On motion of the juvenile court ~~counselor or~~ counselor, the juvenile, the prosecutor,
26 or on the court's own motion, the court may review the progress of any juvenile on probation at
27 any time during the period of probation or at the end of probation. The conditions or duration of
28 probation may be modified only as provided in this Subchapter and only after notice and a
29 hearing.

30"

31 **SECTION 8.(b)** G.S. 7B-2511 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 7B-2511. Termination of probation.**

33 At the end of or at any time during probation, the court may terminate probation by written
34 order upon finding that there is no further need for supervision. ~~The~~ Except for cases that involve
35 a victim as defined in Article 20A of this Chapter, the finding and order terminating probation
36 may be entered in chambers in the absence of the juvenile and may be based on a report from the
37 juvenile court counselor or, at the election of the court, the order may be entered with the juvenile
38 present after notice and a hearing. In cases involving a victim as defined in Article 20A of this
39 Chapter, the order may be entered with the juvenile present after notice and a hearing. If a victim
40 has requested to be notified of court proceedings pursuant to G.S. 7B-2053, the Division of
41 Juvenile Justice shall provide notice to the victim, and the court shall provide the prosecutor, the
42 victim, or the person who may assert the victim's rights as set forth in Article 20A of this Chapter
43 the opportunity to be heard at the hearing."

44 **SECTION 8.(c)** G.S. 7B-2514 reads as rewritten:

45 **"§ 7B-2514. Post-release supervision planning; release.**

46 ...

47 (b) The Division shall develop the plan in writing and base the terms on the needs of the
48 juvenile and the protection of the public. ~~Every~~ Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b1)
49 of this section, every plan shall require the juvenile to complete at least 90 days, but not more
50 than one year, of post-release supervision.

1 (b1) Every plan developed for an offense that would be a Class A, B1, B2, or C felony if
 2 committed by an adult shall require the juvenile to complete three years of post-release
 3 supervision. The Division shall develop the plan in writing and base the terms on the needs of
 4 the juvenile and the protection of the public.

5 ...

6 (g) A juvenile on post-release supervision shall be supervised by a juvenile court
 7 counselor. Post-release supervision shall be terminated by order of the court. For plans developed
 8 pursuant to subsection (b1) of this section, post-release supervision may be terminated with the
 9 juvenile present after notice and a hearing. If a victim has requested to be notified of court
 10 proceedings pursuant to G.S. 7B-2053, the Division of Juvenile Justice shall provide notice to
 11 the victim, and the court shall provide the prosecutor, the victim, or the person who may assert
 12 the victim's rights as set forth in Article 20A of this Chapter the opportunity to be heard at the
 13 hearing."

14 **SECTION 8.(d)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to
 15 offenses committed on or after that date.

16

17 **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN**
 18 **MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

19 **SECTION 9.(a)** G.S. 7A-60(a1) reads as rewritten:

20 "(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district
 21 has the counties and the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following
 22 table:

Prosecutorial District	Counties	No. of Full-Time Asst. District Attorneys
...		
26	Mecklenburg	6471
...."		

23

24

25

26

27

28

29 **SECTION 9.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Administrative
 30 Office of the Courts the sum of one million six hundred twenty-three thousand five hundred ten
 31 dollars (\$1,623,510) in recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and thirty-seven
 32 thousand five hundred twenty dollars (\$37,520) in nonrecurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal
 33 year to be used to hire 10 full-time assistant district attorneys in Prosecutorial District 26,
 34 Mecklenburg County.

35 **SECTION 9.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Administrative
 36 Office of the Courts the sum of four hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$433,000) in recurring
 37 funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and twenty thousand nine hundred ninety dollars
 38 (\$20,990) in nonrecurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to hire five full-time
 39 legal assistant positions in Prosecutorial District 26, Mecklenburg County.

40 **SECTION 9.(d)** This section is effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

41

42 **REQUIRE AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF VIOLENT INVOLUNTARY**
 43 **COMMITMENT RESPONDENTS PRIOR TO HEARING**

44 **SECTION 9.5.(a)** G.S. 122C-266 reads as rewritten:

45 **"§ 122C-266. Inpatient commitment; second examination and treatment pending hearing.**

46 (a) Except as provided in subsections ~~(b)-(b)~~, (b1), and (e), within 24 hours of arrival at
 47 a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252, the respondent shall be examined by a physician.
 48 This physician shall not be the same physician who completed the certificate or examination
 49 under the provisions of G.S. 122C-262 or G.S. 122C-263. The examination shall include but is
 50 not limited to the assessment specified in G.S. 122C-263(c).

- 1 (1) If the physician finds that the respondent is mentally ill and is dangerous to
2 self, as defined by G.S. 122C-3(11)a., or others, as defined by
3 G.S. 122C-3(11)b., the physician shall hold the respondent at the facility
4 pending the district court hearing.
- 5 (2) If the physician finds that the respondent meets the criteria for outpatient
6 commitment under G.S. 122C-263(d)(1), the physician shall show these
7 findings on the physician's examination report, release the respondent pending
8 the district court hearing, and notify the clerk of superior court of the county
9 where the petition was initiated of these findings. In addition, the examining
10 physician shall show on the examination report the name, address, and
11 telephone number of the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center.
12 The physician shall give the respondent a written notice listing the name,
13 address, and telephone number of the proposed outpatient treatment physician
14 or center and directing the respondent to appear at that address at a specified
15 date and time. The examining physician before the appointment shall notify
16 by telephone and shall send a copy of the notice and the examination report to
17 the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center.
- 18 (3) If the physician finds that the respondent does not meet the criteria for
19 commitment under either G.S. 122C-263(d)(1) or G.S. 122C-263(d)(2), the
20 physician shall release the respondent and the proceedings shall be terminated.
- 21 (4) If the respondent is released under subdivisions (2) or (3) of this subsection,
22 the law enforcement officer or other person designated to provide
23 transportation shall return the respondent to the respondent's residence in the
24 originating county or, if requested by the respondent, to another location in
25 the originating county.

26 (a1) The second examination of a respondent required by subsection (a) of this section to
27 determine whether the respondent will be involuntarily committed due to mental illness may be
28 conducted either in the physical face-to-face presence of a physician or utilizing telehealth
29 equipment and procedures, provided that the physician who examines the respondent by means
30 of telehealth is satisfied to a reasonable medical certainty that the determinations made in
31 accordance with subdivisions (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this section would not be different if the
32 examination had been done in the physical presence of the examining physician. An examining
33 physician who is not so satisfied shall note that the examination was not satisfactorily
34 accomplished, and the respondent shall be taken for a face-to-face examination in the physical
35 presence of a physician. As used in this section, "telehealth" means the use of two-way, real-time
36 interactive audio and video where the respondent and commitment examiner can hear and see
37 each other.

38 (b) If the custody order states that the respondent was charged with a violent crime,
39 including a crime involving assault with a deadly weapon, and that he was found incapable of
40 proceeding, the physician shall examine him as set forth in subsection (a) of this section.
41 However, the physician may not release him from the facility until ordered to do so following
42 the district court hearing.

43 (b1) If the custody order states that the respondent has had a conviction for a violent
44 offense, as defined in G.S. 15A-531, within the previous 10 years, and has been subject to a prior
45 order of involuntary commitment within the previous five years, the physician shall examine the
46 respondent as set forth in subsection (a) of this section. However, the physician may not release
47 the respondent from the facility until one of the following criteria are met:

- 48 (1) The court has ordered the respondent's release following the district court
49 hearing.
- 50 (2) Both of the following has occurred:

- 1 a. The physician has provided written certification to the court of all of
2 the following:
3 1. The imminent risk has been remitted.
4 2. Any necessary follow-up appointments or medications have
5 been arranged or provided.
6 3. Any necessary safety plan or housing plan is in place.
7 4. Reasonable efforts have been made to contact the next of kin
8 or a designated support person for the respondent.
9 b. A district court judge has issued an order authorizing release prior to
10 the district court hearing.

11 (c) The findings of the physician and the facts on which they are based shall be in writing,
12 in all cases. A copy of the findings shall be sent to the clerk of superior court (i) through the
13 electronic filing system, if the county has implemented a system approved by the Director of the
14 Administrative Office of the Courts, or (ii) by the most reliable and expeditious means otherwise
15 available.

16 (d) Pending the district court hearing, the physician attending the respondent may
17 administer to the respondent reasonable and appropriate medication and treatment that is
18 consistent with accepted medical standards. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,
19 if at any time pending the district court hearing, the attending physician determines that the
20 respondent no longer meets the criteria of either G.S. 122C-263(d)(1) or (d)(2), he shall release
21 the respondent and notify the clerk of court and the proceedings shall be terminated.

22 (e) If the 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252 or G.S. 122C-262 is the facility in
23 which the first examination by a physician or eligible psychologist occurred and is the same
24 facility in which the respondent is held, the second examination shall occur not later than the
25 following regular working day."

26 **SECTION 9.5.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2027, and applies to
27 custody orders issued on or after that date.

28

29 **EFFECTIVE DATE AND SEVERABILITY**

30 **SECTION 10.(a)** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
31 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
32 without the invalid provisions or application and, to this end, the provisions of this act are
33 severable.

34 **SECTION 10.(b)** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
35 law.