

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

**HOUSE BILL 890
RATIFIED BILL**

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COURT TO ASSESS A FEE FOR THE COSTS OF
THE SERVICES OF A CRIME LABORATORY OPERATED BY A LOCAL
GOVERNMENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 7A-304(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
read:

"(8) For the services of any crime laboratory facility operated by a local government or group of local governments, the district or superior court judge shall, upon conviction, order payment of the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to be remitted to the general fund of the local governmental unit that operates the laboratory to be used for law enforcement purposes. The cost shall be assessed only in cases in which, as part of the investigation leading to the defendant's conviction, the laboratory has performed DNA analysis of the crime, test of bodily fluids of the defendant for the presence of alcohol or controlled substances, or analysis of any controlled substance possessed by the defendant or the defendant's agent. The costs shall be assessed only if the court finds that the work performed at the local government's laboratory is the equivalent of the same kind of work performed by the State Bureau of Investigation under subdivision (7) of this subsection. The court may waive or reduce the amount of the payment required by this subdivision upon a finding of just cause to grant such a waiver or reduction."

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 2005, and applies to court costs assessed or collected on or after that date for offenses committed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 23rd day of August, 2005.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved _____m. this _____ day of _____, 2005