

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 577*

Short Title: Contractual Drug/Alcohol Treatment Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Adams, Bell (Primary Sponsors); Alexander, Pierce, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 13, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION FOR TREATMENT OF INMATES WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION THROUGH PRIVATE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Whereas, the State of North Carolina has an interest in promoting the treatment of inmates with alcohol and drug dependencies; and

Whereas, drug and alcohol dependency disorders represent a serious and costly health problem for the citizens of North Carolina; and

Whereas, certain programs are effective in the treatment of inmates with drug and alcohol addiction and therefore reduce recidivism; and

Whereas, substance abuse problems drive many rearrests; and

Whereas, inmates who are provided intensive treatment and have the opportunity to be enrolled in skills training and work release programs are less likely to return to prison; and

Whereas, empirical data suggest that 64% of inmates have a substance dependency problem and are incarcerated because of crimes related to drugs or alcohol; and

Whereas, programs designed to provide intensive treatment combined with skills training, the teaching of life-learning skills, and the provision of employment opportunities allow offenders the opportunity to develop sound workplace skills; and

Whereas, these efforts can lead to employment opportunities toward the latter part of their sentence, whereby offenders can begin court-ordered restitution payments and repay a portion of the cost of incarceration; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Correction the sum of two million nine hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$2,920,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of eight million seven hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$8,760,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to provide contractual

1 intensive drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatment to inmates who have been diagnosed
2 as needing such treatment through the assessment tools used by the Department.

3 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of Correction shall first issue a request for
4 proposals or employ another appropriate bidding process or procedure to determine
5 contract terms or conditions under which private for profit or nonprofit firms will offer
6 to provide and operate treatment centers at various locations across the state totaling
7 300 beds for inmates committed to the custody of the Department of Correction. One
8 facility shall be located in the eastern part of the state, one facility shall be located in the
9 Piedmont Triad region, and one facility shall be located in the western part of the state.
10 The total number of beds per facility shall be determined by the Secretary, but no
11 facility shall house more than 125 inmates or less than 75 inmates. Each facility shall
12 provide intensive treatment services to inmates diagnosed as requiring treatment for
13 drugs or alcohol addiction or abuse, a skills training component, a program designed to
14 improve the inmates' educational level, and a work release component. The Secretary
15 may also consider requiring a program designed to teach and improve parenting skills of
16 inmates in the request for proposals. Inmates assigned to these facilities shall begin their
17 program of treatment during the last 18 months to two years of incarceration.

18 **SECTION 3.** Prior to the award of any contract under this act, the Secretary
19 shall report the results of the request for proposals or another bidding procedure to the
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
21 Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public
22 Safety, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Fiscal
23 Research Division.

24 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of Correction shall establish procedures for
25 monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these facilities' programs based upon the
26 level and quality of intensive treatment provided, the rate of recidivism, the inmates'
27 efforts and successes in improving their educational levels and skills training, and the
28 income earned during the inmates' last 12 to 18 months in these facilities. The
29 Department shall report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President
30 Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations
31 Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Commission on
32 Governmental Operations, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than one year after
33 each facility has been operational and each year thereafter.

34 **SECTION 5.** Nothing in this act affects existing contracts with providers of
35 services to inmates that are similar to those to be provided under this act.

36 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.