

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 679**

Short Title: Cumberland Juvenile Assessment Center. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Morris; Hurley, Lucas, McAllister, Nye, Warner, and Yongue.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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March 19, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
2 JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER PROJECT AND TO APPROPRIATE  
3 FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 18.21(b) of S.L. 1997-443, as amended by Section  
7 16.6 of S.L. 1998-212, reads as rewritten:

8 "(b) The Administrative Office of the Courts, in collaboration with the Chief  
9 Court Counselor of District Court District 12, the Cumberland County Department of  
10 Social Services, and the appropriate local school administrative units, shall develop and  
11 implement a Juvenile Assessment Center Project in District Court District 12 to operate  
12 from the effective date of this ~~act to June 30, 1999, act.~~ The purpose of the Project is to  
13 facilitate efficient prevention and intervention service delivery to juveniles who are (i)  
14 alleged to be delinquent or undisciplined and have been taken into custody or (ii) at risk  
15 of becoming delinquent or undisciplined because they have behavioral problems and  
16 have committed delinquent acts even though they have not been taken into custody. The  
17 Project shall assist these juveniles by providing a centralized point of intake and  
18 assessment for the juveniles, by addressing the educational, emotional, and physical  
19 needs of the juveniles, and by providing juveniles with an atmosphere for learning  
20 personal responsibility, self-respect, and respect for others. The Administrative Office  
21 of the Courts shall consider the recommendations of the Juvenile Assessment Advisory  
22 Board in developing and implementing the Project."

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 18.21(d) of S.L. 1997-443, as amended by Section  
24 16.6 of S.L. 1998-212, reads as rewritten:

25 "(d) There is established the Juvenile Assessment Advisory Board to make  
26 recommendations to the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the development  
27 and operations of the Project. The Board shall consist of 13 members, including:

- 1 (1) The director of the Department of Social Services of Cumberland  
2 County, or the director's designee.
- 3 (2) A representative from the local mental health area authority of  
4 Cumberland County.
- 5 (3) A member of the Cumberland County Board of Education.
- 6 (4) The sheriff of Cumberland County, or the sheriff's designee.
- 7 (5) The chief of police of the Fayetteville Police Department, or the  
8 designee of the chief of police.
- 9 (6) A judge of District Court District 12.
- 10 (7) A juvenile court counselor from District Court District 12.
- 11 (8) The director of the Guardian Ad Litem program in Cumberland  
12 County, or the director's designee.
- 13 (9) The director of the Health Department of Cumberland County, or the  
14 director's designee.
- 15 (10) Two public members appointed by the Fayetteville City Council.
- 16 (11) Two public members appointed by the Board of County  
17 Commissioners of Cumberland County.

18 The members of the Board shall, within 30 days after the initial appointment is  
19 made, meet and elect one member as chair. The Board shall meet at least once a month  
20 at the call of the ~~chair, and a quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of its~~  
21 ~~members.~~ chair. The Board of County Commissioners of Cumberland County shall  
22 provide necessary clerical and professional assistance to the Board.

23 ~~Initial appointments shall be made by October 1, 1997, and all terms shall expire~~  
24 ~~June 30, 1999."~~

25 **SECTION 3.** The Juvenile Assessment Center Project shall continue to do  
26 all of the following:

- 27 (1) Identify those juveniles who are alleged to be delinquent or  
28 undisciplined or who are at risk of becoming delinquent or  
29 undisciplined.
- 30 (2) Evaluate the educational, emotional, and physical needs of the  
31 juveniles identified and determine whether the juveniles have  
32 problems related to substance abuse, depression, or other emotional  
33 conditions.
- 34 (3) Develop a collaborative interagency information network that will  
35 speed appropriate law enforcement, juvenile court, and relevant  
36 intervention responses for referred youth and their families.
- 37 (4) Develop in-depth and comprehensive assessment plans for the  
38 juveniles identified that recommend appropriate treatment, counseling,  
39 and disposition of the juveniles.
- 40 (5) Provide services to juveniles identified and their families through  
41 collaboration with public and private resources, including local law  
42 enforcement, parents' organizations, the faith community, and county  
43 and community programs and organizations that provide substance  
44 abuse treatment and child and family counseling.

1           (6)    Maintain individual case files and keep statistical information used to  
2                    document services delivered and evaluate the progress of the program.

3           **SECTION 4.**   The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
4 Prevention shall evaluate the Project and report to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
5 Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly by  
6 October 1, 2002, on the operations of the Project. The report shall include  
7 recommendations on whether the Project should be continued and, if so, the extent to  
8 which it should be continued, why it should be continued, and the costs associated with  
9 continuing the Project. If the Department recommends the Project should not be  
10 continued, it shall provide the reasons for that recommendation.

11           **SECTION 5.**   There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
12 Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention the sum of one hundred  
13 fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal year and the sum of one  
14 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to continue the  
15 operations of the Juvenile Assessment Center Project, as authorized by this act.

16           **SECTION 6.**   Sections 1, 2, and 6 of this act become effective June 29, 1999.  
17 The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2001.