

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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SENATE BILL 881

Short Title: Transfer Evidence Warehouse to DPS. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Goolsby; Brown and Newton.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

May 24, 2012

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE WAREHOUSE FORMERLY OPERATED BY THE LAW
3 ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION AND ITS CONTENTS FROM THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO
5 ASSIGN THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STORAGE AND MANAGEMENT OF
6 EVIDENCE HOUSED IN THE WAREHOUSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
7 SAFETY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT
8 COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 19.1(cc) of S.L. 2011-145 is repealed.

11 **SECTION 2.** The evidence warehouse that was operated by the Law Enforcement
12 Support Services Division of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety prior to
13 January 1, 2012, is transferred to the Office of External Affairs in the Department of Public
14 Safety. All State-owned personal property located in or associated with the warehouse and all
15 evidence of any type, including rape kits, located in the warehouse are reallocated to the Office
16 of External Affairs in the Department of Public Safety. The warehouse shall be known as the
17 "Victim Services Warehouse." The Department of Public Safety shall assume any lease to
18 which the warehouse is subject at the time this section becomes effective.

19 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 143B-600(a)(7) reads as rewritten:

20 "(7) The Office of External Affairs, which shall be responsible for federal and
21 State liaison activities, victim services, the Victim Services Warehouse and
22 the storage and management of evidence and other contents housed in the
23 warehouse, and public affairs."

24 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 143B-601 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions
25 to read:

26 "(12) To provide central storage and management of evidence according to the
27 provisions of Article 13 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes and create
28 and maintain a databank of statewide storage locations of postconviction
29 evidence or other similar programs.

30 "(13) To provide central storage and management of rape kits according to the
31 federal Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization
32 Act of 2005 with specific protections against release of names of victims
33 providing anonymous or "Jane Doe" rape kits without victim consent.

34 "(14) To provide for the storage and management of evidence."

35 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

