

NC BAR ASSOCIATION

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HOUSE PASSES ITS BUDGET

The House of Representative's budget adjustments for the 2006-2007 fiscal year include \$373 million in expansion funds for the judicial branch, which is an increase of \$30 million ([click here for link](#)). Highlights of the budget are detailed below:

TECHNOLOGY

Appropriates \$5.5 million for critical technology projects with the AOC, including new initiatives related to e-filing.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

Provides additional funding for 90 Assistant District Attorneys and 9 Victim Witness Legal Assistants. The ADA's will be allocated based on the workload formula adopted by the Conference of District Attorneys. In addition, \$3 million was allocated for the Open File Discovery Project, to register the articles of evidence, track their use and verify that the articles have been disclosed to the appropriate parties as required by law.

TRIAL COURTS

Provides funding for 13 new District Court judges, as well as additional deputy clerks and 6 new magistrates.

OAH FUNDING

The House's recommendations provide \$3 million for operational support and 2 additional Administrative Law judges to manage increased filings.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

Child Custody Mediation Program

Appropriates funding to expand the Custody Mediation Program into the remaining Judicial Districts.

Dispute Settlement Centers

Appropriates funding to restore past year cuts at dispute settlement centers across the state.

OTHER BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- 5% salary increases for judicial branch
- \$500,000 additional funding for the North Carolina Judicial College
- Additional funding for statewide Drug Treatment Court operations and three Drug Treatment case coordinator positions
- Funding to make the Wake Family Court permanent

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN HOUSE BUDGET THAT WERE IN SENATE BUDGET:

- Increase in the portion of the General Court of Justice court fee used for legal services programs from \$1.05 to \$2.05
- Funding for the Business Court in Wake County
- Funding for a pilot implementation of self-serve centers in four courthouses in the state
- Innocence Claim Review Commission
- Funding to restore the Sentencing Services Program

For more information about the House budget, please contact the [Office of Governmental Affairs](#).