

2023 Legislative Session:

The Legislature supported Public Defender Office Expansion by authorizing eight (8) new offices to cover an additional 22 counties in North Carolina.

The 2023 Appropriations Act became law on October 2, 2023. The approved expansion created 134 new FTE positions: 84 new assistant public defenders, 8 chief public defenders, and appropriate support staff.

The Legislature did not approve additional funding to raise PAC rates.

The salary allotments for chief public defenders increased by 10% for assistant public defenders: 4% across the board, with the remaining 6% to be used at the discretion of the chiefs.

Six additional positions were funded for District 5 because they expanded from just New Hanover County into Pender County as well.

PD EXPANSION		
New Office	Counties	Office Effective Date
5	Duplin, Jones, Sampson	1/1/2024
7	Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton	1/1/2024
13	Johnston	7/1/2024
15	Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus	1/1/2024
17	Alamance	1/1/2024
30	Union	1/1/2024
32	Alexander, Iredell	1/1/2024
43	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain	1/1/2024