

STATEMENT BY

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JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH
SECRETARY DAVID L. JONES,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL REHABILITATION
AND CONTROL

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

IT IS MY PLEASURE TODAY TO MEET JOINTLY WITH MR. DAVID L. JONES, SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL REHABILITATION AND CONTROL TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WE BOTH FEEL IS VERY SIGNIFICANT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

THE NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COUNCIL MET ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK AND PURSUANT TO ITS AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICERS, ADOPTED MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND BASIC TRAINING OF CRIMINAL OFFICERS OF THE OFFICE OF CORRECTION.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MALCOLM G. McLEOD, SHERIFF OF ROBESON COUNTY, REPORTS THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS, WHICH BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1974, REQUIRE THAT EVERY PERSON EMPLOYED BY THE OFFICE OF CORRECTION AS A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

SHOULD BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY EVALUATED TO DETERMINE THEIR SUITABILITY TO PERFORM CORRECTIONAL DUTIES. THE COUNCIL ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT ALL THOSE OFFICERS WHO HAVE NOT EARNED COLLEGE DEGREES BE ENCOURAGED TO ENROLL, WITHIN THEIR FIRST TWO YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT, IN COURSES AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING TO BEGIN WORKING TOWARD A DEGREE.

LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT THE REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL ARE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND THAT THE OFFICE OF CORRECTION HAS THE DISCRETION TO ESTABLISH MORE STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS IF THEY SO CHOOSE. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT NO PERSON, AFTER JANUARY 1, 1974, MAY BE EMPLOYED AS A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER IN OUR STATE WHO DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS ESTABLISHED.