



2003 Legislative Summary

State Funding

Funding maintained at \$2,682,500 for domestic violence and sexual assault programs through the Council for Women / Domestic Violence Commission grants.

TANF Funding

Funding increased to \$1,200,000 for domestic violence services to WorkFirst participants (up from \$900,000).

Protective Order Clarification Act (Senate Bill 630)

Legislation clarifies that victims are able to renew protective orders multiple times for “good cause” and that consent orders are treated the same as orders entered pursuant to a hearing.

Homicide Prevention Act (Senate Bill 919)

Legislation enhances victim safety by prohibiting the purchase and possession of firearms by persons subject to protective orders in high-risk cases. Effective December 1, 2003.

Assault in the Presence of a Child (House Bill 926)

Legislation creates an enhanced penalty for serious assaults that are committed within sight of a minor child who resides with one of the parties. *Recommendation of the Child Well-Being and Domestic Violence Task Force.* Effective December 1, 2003.

Omnibus ESC Changes (Senate Bill 439)

Legislation improves NC’s unemployment insurance laws, including that a victim of domestic violence is not required to have a protective order to qualify for benefits and may use other types of evidence.

To see the text of a bill, go to www.ncleg.net and enter the bill number (H# or S#).