



## **Carteret County Sheriff's Office**

Major Jason A. Wank, Chief Detective  
304 Craven Street \* Beaufort, NC 28516  
(252) 504-4800



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### ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **Local Law Enforcement to Access the Controlled Substances Reporting System**

Governor Pat McCrory signed into law Senate Bill 222, Revise Controlled Substances Reporting, on Wednesday.

The bill included a long sought-after provision that allows a sheriff or designated deputy or a chief of police or designated officer to access the Controlled Substances Reporting System with a court order when they are investigating cases of prescription drug abuse.

Sheriff Asa Buck of Carteret County testified before a legislative committee about the need for the access due to the prescription drug abuse problem in Carteret County and across the state.

Sheriff Buck commented on the passing of the legislation saying:

“I would like to thank the state legislature for making this valuable tool available to local law enforcement officials. We are on the “frontline” dealing with prescription drug diversion issues every day. This will be extremely helpful to us in our drug diversion investigations. This new law will also help prescribers to utilize the CSRS more often. Previously only the prescriber themselves could access the database. The new law allows a prescriber to designate a member of their staff to access the CSRS and check to see if patients are being prescribed controlled substance medications by other prescribers.”

“Prescribers will be better enabled to screen out drug seekers/”doctor shoppers” and law enforcement will have another resource with which to investigate and prosecute these crimes and hopefully help to get treatment for those who are addicted to prescription medication.”

“This isn’t just about making arrests it’s also about trying to help people with addiction who want and need help.”

