



# State of North Carolina

**Roy Cooper**  
GOVERNOR

**COMMUTATION ORDER  
FOR  
WILLIAM DAWSON**

**#0644308**

**WHEREAS**, WILLIAM DAWSON (“Dawson”), at the February 1999 Term of Craven County Superior Court, was convicted of First Degree Murder, Docket Number 97CRS008887, and by judgment of said Court was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole in the custody of the North Carolina Department of Correction; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-1380.5 (now repealed), provided that individuals sentenced at that time to life without parole were eligible to have their sentence reviewed after serving twenty-five years of imprisonment; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-1380.5, the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Craven County and the North Carolina Post-Release and Parole Commission reviewed Dawson’s case; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been made to appear to me that this case is one fit for a Commutation.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State, do by these presents COMMUTE his sentence for First Degree Murder to make him parole eligible subject to the condition that if he is placed on parole, he shall not violate any conditions of his parole or have his parole revoked for any reason.

If the Governor, or his successor, finds that WILLIAM DAWSON has violated any condition herein provided, then the Governor or his successor may, in his or her discretion, revoke or modify the Commutation granted this day.

This Commutation Order shall not extend to any other offenses.

This Commutation Order is effective this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2024



  
Roy Cooper

**Esse Quam Videri**  
*To Be Rather Than To Seem*