

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 1076

SHORT TITLE: Fire Mains Comply with Building Code

SPONSOR(S): Representative Cox

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No (X) No Estimate Available ()

FY 1999-00 FY 2000-01 FY 2001-02 FY 2002-03 FY 2003-04

REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

POSITIONS:

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &

PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Insurance, State Licensing Board for General Contractors, General Fund/Highway Fund Capital Projects

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1999

BILL SUMMARY. This bill amends GS 87-10(b) to provide that public utilities contractors constructing fire service mains for connection to fire sprinkler systems must terminate those lines at a flange, cap, plug, or valve inside the building one foot above the finished floor. All fire service mains must comply with Standard 24 of the National Fire Protection Association that is incorporated and made applicable by Vol. V of NC State Building Code.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

This bill amends the section of the general statutes that govern the general contractors' licensing application, examination, certification, and renewal requirements to require public utilities contractors to terminate fire service main lines at a specified point inside of the building. ("Public utility contractors" is one of five classifications of general contractors.) Existing statute requires public utilities contractors to terminate water services lines at a point at which the facilities from the building may be connected. (Other contractors continue the lines to the point where the lines connect to the system.) The bill also requires fire service mains to comply with the North Carolina Building Code.

The State Licensing Board for General Contractors is responsible for ensuring that contractors meet the qualifications for licensure as a general contractor. Careful review of the statutes suggests that the additional requirement for public utilities contractors will not significantly alter the licensing process and therefore will have no impact on the State Licensing Board.

The Office of the Fire Marshall within the Department of Insurance, the Office of State Construction, and local building inspectors are responsible for reviewing building plans and inspecting buildings to ensure compliance with the North Carolina Building Code. Changes to the building code potentially increase the cost of construction as well as the cost of ensuring compliance with the applicable building code. The State Construction Office estimates that the requirements of this bill do not impact the State's construction cost. Further, careful review of the statutes and discussion with the Department of Insurance suggest there is no substantial impact on the reviews and inspections performed at the state and local levels to ensure compliance with the North Carolina Building Code.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The bill requires fire service mains to comply with standard 24 of the National Fire Protection Association entitled "Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains." The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is in the process of rewriting its standards and may move portions of what is currently in Standard 24 to other standards. The bill should ensure that the statutes make the reference to the applicable section of the revised NFPA standards.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Marilyn Chism

APPROVED BY: Tom Covington

DATE: Monday, April 26, 1999



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