

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1153 (First Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Retired Physician License

**SPONSOR(S):** Representatives Larry Justus and Lanier Cansler

**FISCAL IMPACT**

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

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

**REVENUES**

**EXPENDITURES**

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &  
PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** North Carolina Medical Board

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

The bill authorizes the North Carolina Medical Board to issue Limited Volunteer Licenses to retired physicians who provide medical services to indigent patients without compensation. The bill also limits the liability of retired physicians under this license.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

The North Carolina Medical Board cannot estimate the number of physicians that will take advantage of this new license. There are currently 19,158 physicians that are on active status and 1,995 physicians on inactive status. The Medical Board has no information on the number of physicians that are officially retired. The Board does have the following data on the number of physicians over age 60 that might consider retirement and might have an interest in a Limited Volunteer License.

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Active Status</u>	<u>Inactive Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
90 and higher	13	106	119
80 through 89	198	371	569
70 through 79	969	503	1472
60 through 69	<u>1812</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>2015</u>
	2992	1183	4175

The staff of the Medical Board “guesses” that 200 physicians are potential applicants for this license. If those choosing this new license are now inactive, then there is no loss of revenue to the Medical Board. If active doctors choose this new license, then the Board loses \$100 per applicant. However, Medical Board staff believe most physicians will choose to retain their regular license in order to remain current in medical training.

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910**

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**DATE:** Wednesday, June 30, 1999



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