

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 995 Police Peer Counselor Privilege

**SHORT TITLE:** Police Peer Counselor Privilege

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Odom

**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**

No Fiscal Impact

**POSITIONS:** None

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &**

**PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Judicial Department

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 1, 1999 and applies to all actions and proceedings pending in courts of this State on or after that date.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Under this bill, no “peer support group counselor” may be compelled to testify about or disclose communications made by a sworn law enforcement officer in the context of receiving peer support counseling services offered by that officer’s law enforcement agency. Communications made by such officers immediate family to the peer support group counselor are also privileged. The bill includes exceptions relating to the reporting of child or disabled adult abuse or neglect.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** The Judicial Department indicates this privilege or exception could affect availability of evidence during some proceedings and thus may add minimal time to proceedings. Fiscal Research believes this activity will not increase court time in any measurable amount so there will be no fiscal impact to this bill.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910**

**PREPARED BY:** Jim Mills

**APPROVED BY:** Tom Covington

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 28, 1999



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**