

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 1006

SHORT TITLE: DWI Assessments

SPONSOR(S): Senator David Hoyle

FISCAL IMPACT

	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>
REVENUES	\$262,500	\$369,950	\$391,040	\$413,330	\$436,890

EXPENDITURES (not yet determined)

POSITIONS: N/A

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &

PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services

EFFECTIVE DATE: When the bill becomes law.

BILL SUMMARY: North Carolina statutes require an individual convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) to undergo a substance abuse assessment and other requirements if appropriate, prior to restoration of driving privileges (a certificate of completion must be issued by the assessing provider/agency). The statutes have set that fee at \$50 for each assessment. Senate Bill 1006 amends G.S. 122C-142.1(f) to increase the substance abuse assessment fee from \$50 to \$100. The bill would increase the amount providers may charge by \$40 per assessment. The bill also provides that \$10 of every assessment fee be forwarded to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) to cover the development cost of an offender compliance tracking system. Fees collected would also allow the Department to establish a system to monitor and privilege providers of assessment services.

The bill would also require the DHHS to report on its progress in complying with this section.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Data needed to provide fiscal projections are limited. Current law requires assessing providers/agencies to report on the number of assessments, fees, referrals for treatment, etc. However, providers only report on individuals who have completed the assessment process and other requirements needed to issue a certificate of completion (needed for license restoration). For example, during FY96/97 a total of 49,604 individuals were convicted of DWI and required to obtain assessments in order to have their license restored. However, only 8,734 certificates of completion were issued. The DMH/DD/SAS estimates that during 1998 approximately 41,000 individuals actually paid assessment fees in order to begin the license restoration process.

Given these caveats, the following assumptions are used:

- 1) Estimated number of assessments during FY99/00 is 26,250 (for 9 months);
- 2) The State will receive \$10 per assessment (as per the bill); and
- 2) Assessments will increase by 5.7% each fiscal year.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910

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