

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 12 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Left Lane For Passing Only.

SPONSOR(S): Representative LaRoque

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES					
Highway Fund	\$1,180,500				
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Department of Transportation, Highway Fund				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	December 1, 2005				

BILL SUMMARY:

Provides that on highways of four or more lanes with two-way movement of traffic no vehicle being driven slower than the normal speed of other vehicles shall be driven in the leftmost lane except when passing, preparing for a left turn, or preparing to exit the highway. The Department of Transportation (DOT) shall designate and erect signs at locations where this requirement is most likely to be violated.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Transportation states that its practice is to place this type of sign every three to five miles. There are 4,541 miles of qualifying roadways (35% with full control of access and 65% other 4 lane facilities). Signs have to be placed in both directions, for a total of 9,082 miles. DOT estimates that approximately 60% of the total mileage, or 5,500 miles, would require signs. One thousand nine hundred (1,900) of these miles would be Interstate/Freeway type roads with a cost of \$1,500 per sign and the remaining 3,600 miles would have costs of \$500 per sign.

Additional signs placed at the state line for major highways would cost \$18,000. The cost figures provided by DOT are shown below. The total cost for signs with three mile spacing would be \$1,567,500 and with five mile spacing would be \$948,000. It is assumed for this fiscal note that spacing would be four miles and the total cost would be \$1,180,500 (475 signs at \$1,500 for a total of \$712,500 plus 900 signs at \$500 for a total of \$450,000 plus State Line signs at a cost of \$18,000).

Type of Roadway	Directional Miles	Number of Signs with		Cost Per Sign	Total Cost for Signs	
		3 mi. Spacing	5 mile spacing		3 mi. Spacing	5 mile spacing
Interstate/Freeway	1,900	633	380	\$1,500	\$949,500	\$570,000
Other Roadways	3,600	1,200	720	\$500	\$600,000	\$360,000
Sub Total		1,833	1,100		\$1,549,500	\$930,000
State Line Signs						
Interstate/Freeway		8	8	\$1,500	\$12,000	\$12,000
Other Roadways		12	12	\$500	\$6,000	\$6,000
					\$18,000	\$18,000
Total Cost Estimate					\$1,567,500	\$948,000

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Transportation

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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DATE: February 14, 2005

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