

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2007

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 493 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Defense of Marriage.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Crawford, Hill, Johnson, and Moore

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>
EXPENDITURES:					
State Board of Elections	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Boards of Elections	\$2.2 million to \$3 million	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
POSITIONS (cumulative):	0	0	0	0	0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: State Board of Elections; county boards of elections.					
EFFECTIVE DATE: If amendment is approved, January 1, 2008					

BILL SUMMARY:

This bill adds a new Section 6, Marriage, to Article 14 of the North Carolina Constitution, to provide as title indicates. The bill specifies that the uniting of two persons of the same sex or the uniting of more than two persons of any sex in a marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar relationship within or outside NC is not to be valid or recognized in NC. The bill provides that the NC Constitution is not to be construed to require that marital status or the rights, privileges, benefits, or other legal incidents of marriage be conferred on unmarried individuals or groups. The bill provides for the proposed amendment to be submitted to the voters at a statewide election on November 6, 2007, and specifies the wording of the ballot question, similar to the description above. If the amendment is approved, it becomes effective on January 1, 2008.
Source: Bill Digest H.B. 493 (03/05/0200).

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Combined State and county costs associated with holding a special November election are estimated to be between \$2.5 million and \$3.3 million. Counties pay for the majority of electoral costs, including hiring Election Day personnel, training costs, ballot printing, and facility rental fees. The State incurs a cost for programming the ballots. The State Board of Elections estimated this cost to be approximately \$300,000.

The State most recently held special elections in 1988, when North Carolina participated in Super Tuesday, and in 1993, for a statewide school bond. In both instances, the State reimbursed the counties for related expenses. County Boards of Elections have been refunded the costs of a special November election only if the precinct does not require a November election be held for county or city elections. As a result, it is estimated that county costs to hold a special November election will range between \$2.2 million and \$3 million.

SOURCES OF DATA: State Board of Elections.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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