

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2015

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 405 (First Edition)
SHORT TITLE: Track Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy.
SPONSOR(S): Senator Gunn

FISCAL IMPACT (\$ in millions)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No Estimate Available		
	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Impact					
General Fund Revenues:					
General Fund Expenditures:					
Special Fund Revenues:					
Special Fund Expenditures:					
State Positions:					
NET STATE IMPACT	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Local Impact					
Revenues:					
Expenditures:					
NET LOCAL IMPACT	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Health and Human Services					
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015					
TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Yes Sec. 2.(a1)(3)					

BILL SUMMARY:

S405. TRACK SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN EPILEPSY. (March 24, 2015)

AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER TO TRAIN MEDICAL EXAMINERS HOW TO RECOGNIZE SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN EPILEPSY (SUDEP) AND TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUDEP IS A KNOWN OR SUSPECTED CAUSE OF DEATH IN EACH CASE UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

Amends GS 130A-379 to require the Chief Medical Examiner to establish a sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP) awareness training program to educate medical examiners on SUDEP

and how to investigate whether it is a cause of death. Amends GS 130A-385 to require the Chief Medical Examiner's inquiries about the cause and manner of death for each death under investigation to include an inquiry to determine if death was a result of a seizure or epilepsy. Specifies actions that must be taken if the autopsy findings are consistent with the definition of known or suspected sudden unexplained death in epilepsy. Makes language gender-neutral. Effective October 1, 2015.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: S.B. 405, Track Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), requires the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to train all medical examiners in the State about SUDEP and how to investigate whether SUDEP is a known or suspected cause of death. All death investigations must include an inquiry to determine whether the death was a direct result of a seizure or epilepsy. If the findings of an autopsy are consistent with sudden unexplained death in epilepsy, the information is to be included on the death certificate. OCME must request permission from the decedent's authorized representative to submit relevant medical information to a SUDEP registry for research purposes. OCME is also required to request that a person authorized to make an anatomical gift of the decedent's body or body part consider making a gift of the decedent's brain for research or educational purposes.

OCME staff indicates that S.B. 405 would have no fiscal impact at this time. The required SUDEP training can be added to the existing medical examiner training curriculum. The Division of Public Health currently collects data about epilepsy related deaths (as a primary or secondary cause of death) through ordinary methods from the Medical Examiner Information System (MEIS) so there is no need for a separate registry to implement the Act's reporting requirements related to epilepsy deaths.

SOURCES OF DATA: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Health and Human Services

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: OCME notes that SUDEP cannot be determined until after the completion of a forensic autopsy, which requires the removal of the brain. The pathologist then takes tissue from the brain for microscopic review. This action would prevent an anatomical gift of the brain for research as required in Sec.2.(a)(3).

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Denise Thomas

APPROVED BY:

Mark Trogdon, Director
Fiscal Research Division

DATE: April 27, 2015



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices