

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 1045 1st Edition Interfere with Emergency Calls

SHORT TITLE: Interfere with Emergency Calls

SPONSOR(S): Sen. Tony Rand

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 significant fiscal impact. Any impact could be absorbed with existing resources.

POSITIONS: none

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &

PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Judicial Branch and Department of Correction

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1999 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

BILL SUMMARY:

The bill would make intentionally interfering with an emergency telephone call punishable by a Class H felony unless that person is also making an emergency call.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Judicial Branch

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Fiscal Research Division are unable to estimate the impact of the bill without accurate information on the number of possible new or enhanced charges of interfering with emergency telephone calls that might result. Because this is a new offense, there is no data available from the AOC records on how many cases might fit the description of this bill and the AOC does not have an estimate of the number of such cases but believes the number of cases would be few.

Without an accurate count of the cases involved, a specific cost estimate is unavailable. The Fiscal Research Division anticipates this bill would result in minimal fiscal impact because of the expectation of a small number of cases and would expect that the additional trials and workload could be absorbed statewide with existing resources.

Department of Correction

It is not known how many convictions there might be from the new offense. However, if there were 10 convictions, three offenders would receive an active sentence of 8.3 months creating the need for two full-year equivalent inmate slots in the first year and four in the second year including probation revocations.

The Fiscal Research Division believes the minimal fiscal impact of this bill could be absorbed with current resources. There is no direct fiscal impact resulting from the passage of this bill because this magnitude of additional beds and their associated costs can be absorbed within the Department of Correction's existing resources.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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