

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 303 (2nd Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Healthy, Active Children in Grades K-8

SPONSOR(S): Representative Bell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No ()	No Estimate Available (X)		
	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES	See Assumptions and Methodology				
POSITIONS: (cumulative)					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Local education agencies				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Effective for school years beginning with 2003-04				

BILL SUMMARY: Enacts new GS 115C-81(b)(2a) as title indicates to require children [in grades kindergarten through eight] to participate in daily physical education at least 30 minutes each school day. Adds new GS 115C-47(44) to impose the responsibility for meeting this requirement on local boards of education. Boards are to ensure that the programs that are designed meet the needs of all students, and provides that no student shall be permitted to waive or substitute other classes for the physical education requirement (Bill Digest: April 9, 2003).

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

1. The legislation does not require the person working with the students for the required time be a physical education teacher. *If* local education agencies or the State Board of Education determine that the requirements in the bill can only be met by hiring physical education teachers, there would be additional costs.
2. According to the Department of Public Instruction, adding time to the school day, if this is the route chosen by some school systems, will not necessarily add costs unless there are non-certified employees who are then working more than 40 hours per week.
3. Schedule changes would be required to meet the requirements. Most school districts currently have only one day per week of physical education in elementary schools, with physical activity encouraged on the other days. A majority of school districts include physical education at each grade level in middle school for one semester each year. Many of these semester courses include both physical education and health education in

the same course. To meet a daily requirement in the middle schools would probably require more scheduling changes than in the lower grades.

4. Fiscal Research is unable to determine whether or not there is a cost to HB 303.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Public Instruction; summary of survey response to DPI questionnaire on required physical education; summary of responses to survey on current physical education; General Assembly Research staff “Bill Analysis: HB 303 PCS”

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- To implement the required physical education in school year 2003-04 will present a challenge to some local education agencies in making schedule changes.
- The State Board of Education policy adopted in January 2003 “require[s] students enrolled in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grade levels below high school to participate in physical activity as part of the district's physical education curriculum. Elementary schools should consider having 150 minutes per week and middle schools should consider having 225 minutes per week of physical activity including a minimum of every other day of physical education throughout the year...” This policy must be implemented by the 2006-07 school year. The policy does not require the amount of time set forth in HB 303.

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DATE: April 24, 2003



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