

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 672 (2nd Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure

SPONSOR(S): Senator Hartsell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (x)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<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	0	0	0	0	0
EXPENDITURES	(Range \$152,000 – \$225,000 Annually)				
POSITIONS: (cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Health and Human Services Local Departments of Public Health					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law.					

BILL SUMMARY: Repeals the mission and essential services statement for the public health services in North Carolina and inserts a new policy statement for public health, "to protect and promote the health of the public to the greatest extent possible through the public health system while respecting individual rights to bodily integrity, health information privacy, nondiscrimination, due process, and other legally protected interests".

Requires local public health departments to be certified by a new accreditation program through the state's Division of Public Health as well as requiring the state public health agency to obtain an accreditation from a national accrediting body. The new language outlines fifteen essential services and functions of local health departments.

There is a requirement for every county, in conjunction with the local health department, to develop priorities for public health. Collectively, these priorities will form the basis of a state plan for public health services. The Secretary of Health and Human Services will be responsible for the development and implementation of the State Plan through the appointment of a planning committee to assist in its development. In addition to Health and Human Services staff and local health department representation, the board will include four legislators. The Secretary is required to report on the readiness for implementation of the State Plan by May 2004.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

1. There will be a cost associated with the accrediting process for local health departments. The Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Public Health (DPH) will contract with an outside entity to establish the standards and certify local health departments. This will be an ongoing contract and the 86 health agencies will be re-accredited and monitored for compliance periodically. The DPH estimates a contract of this nature would range from \$100,000-\$175,000 annually.
2. The Division of Public Health will provide technical assistance to local health agencies in obtaining the accreditation. This will be accomplished through the State's Division of Public Health staff that already consult with local health departments. Every facet of DPH will include information and training on these standard levels into their regular and routine technical assistance provided to local health departments. The DPH estimates staff training costs will be \$50,000 annually.
3. There will be a cost associated with the payment of per diem for legislators who serve on the planning committee. This amount is approximately \$2,000, assuming there will be four meetings during the first year.
4. Additionally, there will be a cost to most counties and local health departments in obtaining the accreditation and improving standards. The ultimate plan may involve a fee by local departments for credentialing to cover the cost of the accreditation process. These costs to local health departments will vary and is undeterminable; therefore, no estimate is available.

SOURCES OF DATA:

Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
General Assembly, Financial Services Division

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

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DATE: June 24, 2003



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