

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 49 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Minority Incarceration Study Commission.

SPONSOR(S): Representative Miller

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
REVENUES	0	0	0	0	0
EXPENDITURES	\$25,650	0	0	0	0
POSITIONS (cumulative):	0	0	0	0	0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: General Assembly					
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005					

BILL SUMMARY:

The legislation creates a 15-member study commission with members designated by the Governor, Speaker of House of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The issue to be studied is the disparity of incarceration for African-Americans and Hispanics as compared to other ethnic groups. The commission is to make its final report to the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005 General Assembly. Additionally, the legislation appropriates \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 from the General Fund to the General Assembly to fund the study.

Source: Bill Digest H.B. 49 (02/03/2005)

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The legislation is not specific in regard to the number of meetings the Commission may convene or the selection of appointees, i.e. whether they should be legislators or non-legislators. Additionally, it is not possible to determine the schedule this Commission will adopt. There is the potential to convene ten (10) monthly meetings between August 2005 and May 2006, if the 2005 Session adjourns mid to late July, and appointments to study commissions occur early in the

2005-06 interim. However, these options present considerable leeway in scheduling. The Commission could elect to meet monthly during the ten (10) month period, if the volume of work warranted that frequency, or to meet every other month for a total of five (5) meetings. Additionally, the schedule could suggest a combination of one-day and two-day meetings with meetings occurring five (5) to ten (10) times or more during the interim.

Therefore, in the absence of expressed direction, this estimate assumes 1) the ten (10) appointees of the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore would be legislators, and the five (5) appointees of the Governor, non-legislators; 2) the 2005 Session will adjourn mid to late July; and 3) the Commission will adopt a one-day meeting schedule with a minimum of five (5) meetings (every other month), but not more than 10 meetings during the 2005-06 interim. On this basis, the estimated cost of one-day meetings scheduled five (5) times during the interim is \$25,650, and the cost of ten (10) meetings is \$43,150. Section 3 of the bill has designated an appropriation of \$25,000 to support the Commission, the estimate related to five (5), one-day meetings is more in line with the proposed appropriation. However, if the Commission schedule requires two-day meetings, the cost would increase 8% for five (5) meetings and approximately 10% for ten (10) meetings.

Estimated cost is not projected beyond FY 2005-06, as Section 2(b) designates that a final report will be submitted by the Commission to the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005 General Assembly, and Commission business will terminate with filing the final report.

SOURCES OF DATA: General Assembly

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Michele T. Nelson

APPROVED BY: James D. Johnson, Director
Fiscal Research Division



DATE: February 9, 2005

Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices