

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** S.B. 17

**SHORT TITLE:** Economic Development Districts

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Weinstein

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes ( )</b>	<b>No (X)</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 1999-00</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2000-01</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2001-02</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2002-03</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2003-04</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b> Legislatively created Economic Development and Tourist Districts.					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> When it becomes law.					

**BILL SUMMARY:** The bill amends the definition of an “economic development and tourist district” set out in Chapter 18B of the General Statutes, to include districts created after July 1, 1997. (This section deals specifically with the retail sale of alcoholic beverages). If passed, the bill will apply to pending litigation.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** On June 4, 1997 the General Assembly enacted legislation that (1) created the Lumberton Economic Development and Tourism District and (2) added a section to the alcoholic beverage control laws authorizing the ABC Commission to issue ABC permits in “Economic Development and Tourism Districts”. A local vote would not be required before permits are issued. Because the law applies only to districts created before July 1, 1997, and Lumberton was the only district created at that time, the law had the effect of allowing mixed beverage sales in a portion of Lumberton, without a vote of the people.

This legislation removes the July 1, 1997 restriction. As a result, the General Assembly could create additional economic development and tourism districts. Retailers in these districts would be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages without a local referendum. Because additional legislative action would be required before another district could be created (G.S. 18B – 1006(l)), the bill itself does not directly impact mixed beverage sales. No fiscal impact is expected.

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910**

**PREPARED BY:** Linda Struyk Millsaps

**APPROVED BY:** Tom Covington  
**DATE:** February 10, 1999



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