

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 897 Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute Safety Professionals

SHORT TITLE: Safety Professionals

SPONSOR(S): Sen. Walter Dalton

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>
REVENUES					
Secretary of State	\$9,625	\$1,330	\$1,330	\$1,330	\$1,330
EXPENDITURES					
Secretary of State					
					*See Assumptions and Methodology *
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Secretary of State.				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 1, 2000 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.				

BILL SUMMARY: The bill creates a new “safety profession” and provides that only those individuals who are certified as either a Certified Safety Professional or an Associate Safety Professional may present themselves as safety professionals in North Carolina. The national, private Board of Certified Safety Professionals must certify these individuals. The bill defines the terms “Associate Safety Professional”, “Board of Certified Safety Professionals”, and “Certified Safety Professional”. Under the bill, representing that someone is a safety professional without having the appropriate certification will be considered an unfair and deceptive trade practice. The bill exempts from these requirement professionals who are licensed in another field and are engaged in the practice of that profession. Persons who practice in the field of safety, injury or illness prevention and who do not use titles, engineers, architects, and those under the supervision of architects are also exempt. Finally, the bill requires the Board to file with the Secretary of State the name, address, telephone number and date of certification of all certified and associate safety professionals. This listing must be accompanied by \$35.00 for each certification.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The only potential revenue impact of the bill relates to the fee. The Board of Certified Safety Professionals indicates that there are currently

275 certified safety professionals practicing in North Carolina. The potential revenue is \$9,625 (275 certifications * \$35 each) for the first fiscal year.

Fiscal Research expects that the revenue generated will decrease significantly in the out years. The Board indicates that they would be able to provide an updated list of professionals via computer disc or e-mail on whatever timetable the Secretary of State and the law deems appropriate. The Board reports that the number of certified professionals in North Carolina has increased from 200 in 1997 to 275 in 1999. Assuming the approximately 38 new professionals are added each year, the potential revenue stream from changes only would be approximately \$1,330.

The Secretary of State's Office indicates that there will be some consumer inquiries about the certification registry. They expect to hire one part time temporary person (Pay grade 59), to manage the registry data and the consumer inquiries. Therefore, the Secretary of State estimates cost of approximately \$9,000 - \$10,000 to implement the bill. Because of the uncertainty about the number of consumer inquiries about the certification registry, the Fiscal Research staff believes the initial request for a part-time temporary person a reasonable one. Please note, however, that a year's experience with the bill should reveal what impact, if any, that this bill has on the Department' workload and staffing needs.

Any remaining revenue from this bill, less expenses, will revert to the General Fund.

NOTE: Neither the revenue nor expenditures associated with this bill have been included in the state budget. Also, the Board indicates that the names of certified professionals, as well as their city and state are frequently released to the public. However, they believe that forwarding the addresses and telephone numbers as suggested by the bill would take a either a vote of the Board of Directors or the approval of the certified professional.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: As mentioned previously, the bill is unclear about how often the listing will be updated once the initial database is installed. Additional language may be needed to clarify this issue.

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