

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 1545

SHORT TITLE: Officers Memorial Sign Funds

SPONSOR(S): Senator Shaw of Cumberland

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No () No Estimate Available (X)

FY 2000-01 FY 2001-02 FY 2002-03 FY 2003-04 FY 2004-05

REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

POSITIONS:

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &
PROGRAM (S) AFFECTED:**

Department of Transportation
Department of Crime Control & Public Safety

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000

BILL SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation is to erect memorial signs along highways for members of the State Highway Patrol and other law enforcement personnel who have died in the line of duty.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: On average, four law enforcement officers are killed in the line of duty every year. Depending on the place in which the officer was killed, the cost of the sign could range from \$1,600 to \$4,300. A sign for a conventional road, where the speed limit is 55 mph or less, would be considerably less expensive than one erected along an interstate highway where the sign would have to be much larger for drivers at higher speeds to see without straining.

There is no estimate available because the bill is not clear as to whether the act is to be retroactive and if so, how far back. Forty-six (46) officers have been killed in the line of duty in the past eleven (11) years. If the Department were directed to erect signs for all past officers killed in the line of duty, the cost would be considerable. Funding for this bill would have to come from the Department's maintenance budget, which is already limited. Therefore, if the Department were expected to absorb the cost of the bill within its existing resources, it would be at the expense of other projects normally paid for out of the maintenance budget.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The bill is unclear as to whether the act is to be for law enforcement officers killed in the future only or if it is to be retroactive and if so, how many years back.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910

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DATE: June 19, 2000



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