

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NUMBER: H.B. 1549
SHORT TITLE: Currituck/Beach Driving Penalty
SPONSOR(S): Representative Owens

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes ()	No ()	No Estimate Available (X)		
<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>

REVENUES

May increase Currituck County revenue, but unable to estimate reliably.

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &
PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Currituck County.
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1998.

BILL SUMMARY: The bill increases the maximum fine to \$500.00 for driving a motor vehicle on the foreshore, beach strand, or barrier dune system in Currituck County. The current maximum fine is \$50.00.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Currituck County has an extensive policy on driving on the beach. Some vehicles, such as three wheel buggies, can receive permits to drive on the beach. Most vehicles can not. There are also restrictions on what time of year individuals can drive on the beach. Under these ordinances, Currituck County issues approximately 50 - 60 tickets, on average, for driving illegally on the beach each season. While the fine actually paid varies, the average fine is near the maximum of \$50.00. (The fines vary because of magistrate discretion upon petition). As such, the annual income the county receives from these fees is \$2,500 to \$3,000 (50 tickets times \$50.00 each, and 60 tickets times \$50.00 each). If the number of violators remains the same, and the county continues to impose the maximum fine, the county will receive \$25,000 to \$30,000 in fines (50 tickets times \$500.00 each, and 60 tickets times \$500.00 each). It is unlikely the number of violators would remain the same with the increased penalties. However, no comparison data is available from other beach front counties. (Because the Park Service and local municipalities control most of their beach front property, very few if any of the beach counties have similar ordinances.). As such, no reliable fiscal estimate is possible.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910
PREPARED BY: Linda Struyk Millsaps

APPROVED BY: Tom Covington
DATE: July 20, 1998



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices