

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 1701

SHORT TITLE: Alamance Work Release Pilot

SPONSOR(S): Representative Cole

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (x) (Savings)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<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					
EXPENDITURES					
SAVINGS	\$74,520	\$74,520	\$74,520	\$74,520	\$74,520
POSITIONS:	0				
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Correction					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon ratification					

BILL SUMMARY: Requires Department of Correction (DOC) to establish a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of placing all able-bodied inmates on work release. Requires report on the cost effectiveness of the program by March 1, 1999

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Alamance Correctional Center is one of nine prisons recommended for closing by the Governor during the 1998-99 fiscal year. It is a minimum security facility which operated at a cost per day of \$50.04 in 1996-97, the lowest cost of the nine prisons, which are a mixture of medium and minimum facilities (statewide average cost per day for minimum security facilities was \$53.63 in 96-97)

Alamance currently houses 78 inmates; 32 are already on work release. It is possible to convert another 27 inmates to work release for a total of 59 inmates on work release. These 27 inmates are assigned to and supervised by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to perform work on state roads (inmates are minimum security). This group of inmates should meet requirements for work release or other inmates could be easily identified. It is assumed the additional 19 inmates that are assigned to maintain the buildings and grounds and work in the kitchen are not likely to be converted to work release or the institution could not perform these basic operations.

The savings generated would come from converting the 27 inmates assigned to DOT to work release, thus generating \$81,000 a year in receipts to DOC (work release inmates pay \$12.50 a day to DOC). However, DOC would lose income from DOT by converting the 27 inmates to work release, approximately \$6,480 annually. Total actual savings would be \$74,520.

No other immediate savings can be estimated. Staffing at Alamance would not immediately decrease since 27 inmates assigned to road squads were not supervised by DOC during the day anyway. However, it is assumed the goal of the pilot program is to identify other possible savings.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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DATE: June 17, 1998



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