

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 442

SHORT TITLE: American History Act

SPONSOR(S): Sen. Austin Allran

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No (x) No Estimate Available ()

FY 1997-98 FY 1998-99 FY 1999-00 FY 2000-01 FY 2001-02

REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

POSITIONS:

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &

PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, local boards of education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective upon ratification

BILL SUMMARY: Allow local boards of education to encourage teachers to post or read various documents that relate to the history of the United States. Clarifies that local boards, superintendents, principals, and supervisors may not allow content-based censorship of American history in public schools based on religious references in historical writings, documents, and records. **Require** the State Board of Education to adopt policy by Sept. 30, 1997, to ensure that textbooks it adopts have no content-based censorship of American history based on religious preferences. Amends GS 115C-81(g)(5), which now requires that curriculum on civic literacy include a review of contributions made by Americans of all races “during the period in which our nation was founded,” by deleting quoted language. Directs State Board of Education to study feasibility of requiring, as condition of graduation, two high school courses in U.S. history and two in economic, legal and political systems in action, and to report to Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee before Sept. 15, 1998.¹

¹ Institute of Government Daily Bulletin

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

1. Bill would not require the adoption of new textbooks to implement this act. Any changes in textbooks would come as a part of the normal textbook adoption cycle.
2. The State Board of Education's study of the feasibility of adding additional high school courses in United States history and Economic, Legal, and Political Systems in Action can be completed without additional costs.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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DATE: June 16, 1997



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