

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 889  
**SHORT TITLE:** American Sign Language  
**SPONSOR(S):** Senators Martin of Guilford and Cooper

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	Yes ( )	No (X)	No Estimate Available ( )		
	<u>FY 1997-98</u>	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b> Department Of Human Resources (DHR), Department of Public Instruction (DPI), University of North Carolina (UNC) System, and Community College System					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> Upon ratification					

**BILL SUMMARY:** Adds G.S. 103A which 1) defines American Sign Language (ASL) and lists the ASL Teachers Association certification levels for ASL teachers, 2) permits public schools, state universities, colleges, and community colleges to offer ASL as a modern language with credit, and 3) sets minimum standards for instructors teaching ASL, including ASL Teachers Association certification. Instructor standards apply to persons teaching ASL on and after January 1, 1999.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

1. This bill is permissive in nature and does not require DHR, DPI, the UNC System, or the Community College System to offer courses in ASL.
2. However, beginning January 1, 1999, if these institutions choose to offer ASL courses, their instructors must meet minimum certification requirements. This fiscal note assumes the cost of achieving this certification will be borne by the individual teachers, as it is in other areas requiring certification.
3. State agencies and local school systems may choose to use existing staff development funds to help ASL instructors satisfy some of the teacher certification requirements.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:** DHR, DPI, UNC System, Community College System

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910 DATE:** June 3, 1997  
**PREPARED BY:** Mary Ellen Sylvester  
**APPROVED BY:** Tom Covington



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**