

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 924 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Criminal Record Checks/DHR

SPONSOR(S): Senator Odom

FISCAL IMPACT					
	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>
EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Human Resources and the Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation, Division of Criminal Information					
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1997					

BILL SUMMARY: This bill, as amended, permits the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to request state and national criminal histories record checks from the Department of Justice on 1) applicants or employees who provide direct care for clients, patients, students, residents, or wards of DHR and 2) supervisors of positions providing these direct care services. The Department of Justice shall charge DHR a reasonable fee for conducting these record checks. DHR shall use funds available to cover the costs of implementing this bill.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

1. This bill proposes to codify existing practice within DHR, which is authorized by Executive Order 169, 1992 S.L., pages 1329 through 1332. The total cost to DHR is not expected to exceed \$3,700 per year, which the bill directs DHR to cover within available funds.
2. In 1995-96, DHR conducted state criminal history checks on 6,000 applicants for direct care positions within DHR. (DHR does not require criminal record checks on supervisors of direct care providers; however, ninety per cent of such supervisors have been promoted from direct care positions.) DHR leases three terminals from the Division of Criminal

Information, who has trained and certified DHR personnel to conduct record checks using these terminals. DHR's annual (budgeted) cost for this capability is \$10,800.

3. Under current practice, DHR requires a federal criminal history check if an applicant has not lived in North Carolina for the past five years. DHR estimates that this additional check (including supervisors) would apply to no more than 74 applicants annually, at a cost of \$50 each: \$12 for fingerprints, \$14 for SBI processing fee, and \$24 for FBI processing fee. The maximum annual cost impact to DHR's budget is estimated to be \$3,700 per year.
4. The Division of Criminal Information can absorb requests for an additional 74 national criminal history checks per year within the existing staffing and fee structure.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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DATE: May 1, 1997



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