

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 336 (Fourth Edition)
SHORT TITLE: Cabarrus Ambulance Service
SPONSOR(S): Senator Hartsell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>	<u>FY 2005-06</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES					
POSITIONS:					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Judicial Branch, Dept. of Correction, local jails				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	This act becomes effective December 1, 2001, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.				

BILL SUMMARY:

Section 1

Under existing G.S. 14-111.2, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to obtain ambulance service with the intent to not pay for services rendered if financially able to do so. At present, this statute applies to 43 listed counties. This bill extends the coverage of this statute to the following counties: Alamance, Cabarrus, Carteret, Halifax, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender.

Section 2

Under existing G.S. 14-111.3 it is a Class 3 misdemeanor for any person to falsely report the need for, obtain, or request ambulance service. At present, this statute applies to 20 listed counties. This bill extends the coverage of this statute to the following counties: Alamance, Cabarrus, Carteret, Halifax, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, and Rockingham.

The 4th edition makes the bill applicable to Rockingham County.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Judicial Branch

The AOC does not have an offense code for crimes committed under G.S. 14-111.2 and G.S. 14-111.3. They note, the absence of an offense code usually suggests that a relatively modest number of charges are filed. Therefore, Fiscal Research Division believes there would not be an increased fiscal impact on the AOC from this amendment.

Department of Correction/County Jails

Since violation under G.S. 14-111.2 is a Class 2 misdemeanor and violation under G.S. 14-111.3 is a Class 3 misdemeanor, Fiscal Research does not expect an impact on the prison population. In FY 1999/2000, 11% of all Class 2 misdemeanor convictions resulted in active sentences. The average sentence length imposed was 24 days. In addition, 17% of Class 3 misdemeanors resulted in active sentences in 1999/2000, with an average sentence length of 8 days. Sentences under 90 days are served in county jails.

While there is some chance an offender could be sentenced to jail under this statute, because AOC data suggests charges are relatively rare we assume no fiscal impact on county jails as well.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Correction; Judicial Branch; North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: HB 666 extends coverage of GS 14-111.2 and 111.3 to Halifax County only and is thus subsumed in SB 336.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: 733-4910

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DATE: May 22, 2001



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