

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 12 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Bioptic Lenses/Drivers License Tests.

SPONSOR(S): Representative Moore

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>
REVENUES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel	\$0	52,140	\$47,540	\$47,540	\$47,540
Information Technology	\$246,054		\$52,928	\$52,928	\$52,928
TOTAL	\$246,054	\$105,068	\$100,468	\$100,468	\$100,468
POSITIONS (cumulative):	0	1	1	1	1
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Bill becomes effective when it becomes law.					

BILL SUMMARY:

This bill amends GS 20-7 to add a new subsection regarding requirements for the issuance of a driver's license to applicants who use bioptic telescopic lenses due to reduced visual acuity or low vision. The bill specifies the criteria for determining whether an applicant using bioptic telescopic lenses meets the requirements for the issuance of a regular drivers license, a limited learner's permit, or a provisional license. The bill places restrictions on regular driver's licenses, limited learner's permits, and provisional driver's licenses issued to applicants using bioptic telescopic lenses on the eye test. The license or permit holder:

1. is not eligible for any endorsements
2. is only allowed to drive from one-half hour after sunrise until one-half hour before sunset.
(Applicants issued a drivers license after using bioptic telescopic lenses for the eye test may drive at night if specified conditions are met.)

The bill provides that the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is not required to issue licenses applied for under the proposed section at any location other than the DMV headquarters in

Raleigh, but provides that the DMV may designate additional offices in the state for testing allowed under this proposed subsection.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Based on NC census statistics, there are approximately 7,335,525 people of the age to drive. The Division of Motor Vehicles estimates that 10% of the population is affected by diseases/causes that will result in a need to use bioptic lenses to drive. After discussion and review with Department of Transportation medical personnel, and based on information received from several doctors throughout the state, DMV believes that approximately 1500 persons may apply per year. They are estimating that a test for a person requiring bioptic lenses will require 45 minutes, or 1125 hours per year. With each examiner having 1,600 hours available, this requirement will create the need for one additional examiner. Costs associated with this position are listed below.

PERSONNEL

Driver License Examiner (Pay grade 65)

Salary @ minimum	\$31,622
Number of Positions	1
Total Salary	\$31,622
FRINGE BENEFITS	
Hospitalization @4,157	\$4,157
Social Security @ .0765	\$2,419
Retirement @ .0814	\$2,574
Payroll Additives @.019065	\$603
FRINGE Total	\$9,753
Annual Salary and Benefits	\$41,375

NON-PERSONNEL

Recurring	
300 sq. ft. per examiner at \$16 sq. ft.	\$4,800
Utilities – \$2 sq. ft. per examiner	\$600
Janitorial - \$2.55 sq. ft. per examiner	\$765
Total	\$6,165
Non-Recurring	
Phone \$100 per examiner	\$100
Vision Test - \$700 per examiner	\$700
Uniforms - \$800 per examiner	\$800
Workstation - \$2,700 per examiner	\$2700
Chair - \$300 per examiner	\$300
PC - \$1,700 per examiner	\$1700
Total	\$4,600
Total for Non- Personnel	\$10,765

The State Automated Driver License System (SADLS) will require modifications to monitor drivers who use bioptic telescopic lenses and to issue a restricted drivers license:

1. Changes to the Certification sub-system to include implementing a new restriction code(s) based on usage of bioptic telescopic lenses, modification of the certification sub-system to allow for entry of new eye exam scores, and creation of a new Certification sub-system business rule to disallow endorsements when the driver uses bioptic telescopic lenses.
2. Changes to the Medical sub-system to monitor drivers who use bioptic telescopic lenses and to require the appropriate restrictions.

As the chart above indicates, the DMV estimates the project will require a total of 2074 hours to complete SADLS modifications. At \$85 an hour, the total estimated cost is \$201,981. A 20 percent change budget adds an additional \$44,073, for a total development cost of \$246,054.

Maintaining the system changes will cost \$40,625 per year, 500 hours at \$65 per hour, plus \$8,125 to cover ITS support costs. Annual operations cost, based on five percent of development cost, will add an additional \$12,303, for a total annual cost of \$52,928.

SOURCES OF DATA: Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Transportation Medical Section, Department of Transportation Information Technology, North Carolina Census, Bioptic Research conducted by UNC – Chapel Hill.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Due to programming requirements and hiring and training a new Examiner, the Division proposed effective date would be July 1, 2010.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Karlynn O'Shaughnessy

APPROVED BY: Marilyn Chism, Director
Fiscal Research Division

DATE: March 10, 2009



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices