

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 88 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Healthy Youth Act.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives England, Fisher, Adams, and Wilkins

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:					None
EXPENDITURES:					
General Fund	\$117,000- \$210,000	-	-	-	-
Local		**see assumptions and methodology section**			
POSITIONS (cumulative):					None Anticipated
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: State Board of Education/Department of Public Instruction					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.					

BILL SUMMARY: Amends the Basic Education Program of the State of North Carolina to modify the School Health Education Program. Clarifies certain requirements of those elements required for instructional materials to be approved by the State Board of Education for “abstinence only until marriage” programs. Requires local school administrative units (LEAs) to offer an “abstinence-based comprehensive sexuality health education” program as an alternative to the abstinence-only program. Schools must provide consent forms to the parent or guardian of every student in grades 7-9 to identify the program in which the student will participate. The student will receive abstinence-based comprehensive sexuality health education if a signed consent form is not returned.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: There is a statutory requirement in GS 115C-81(2) for the State Board of Education “to supervise the development and operation of a statewide comprehensive school health education program...” including the responsibility for the Board to “...approve textbooks and other materials incorporating these objectives that local school administrative units may purchase with State funds.” According to the Department of Public

Instruction (DPI), there are several one-time costs associated with the development and implementation of any new curriculum. The major expenditure items are:

- Standards development;
- Curriculum manual; and
- Staff development of health educators.

Development of standards for this new instructional area generally requires regional meetings with health educators to ensure that the new standards would be appropriate to students in grades 7-9. Travel costs for such meetings generally range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

After standards are developed, DPI would generally distribute **curriculum manuals** to schools. Ideally, DPI will be able to use materials developed for other similar state or local programs, hopefully eliminating the need for the creation of new products. If new materials were required, additional resources would be needed to contract for their development. Costs for curriculum manuals range from \$115,000 to \$200,000.

Additionally, DPI estimates some costs associated with **staff development** for teachers to train on the new subject matter. Depending on availability of DPI funds, the agency might develop an online course or have teachers travel to the Appalachian State University Health Education Training Center. While there are costs associated with both of these options, it is likely that both could be covered with existing federal monies.

All of these State General Fund costs are non-recurring and no ongoing State fiscal impacts are anticipated from this bill.

There may be a minor local fiscal impact. It is estimated that there are currently 356,680 students between grades 7-9 attending public school in North Carolina. The bill requires that consent forms be produced and provided to these students' parents or guardians. Costs of producing these forms would vary by school, but if one estimates a cost of 5 cents per form, the initial statewide local cost of implementation would be \$17,834. Future years would likely cost approximately one-third of this amount, as initial consent forms would cover all but the incoming 7th grade class and transfer students. LEAs receive State support for classroom and other materials, so this effort would likely be covered through existing resources. There may also be some clerical time required for school employees that process the forms, but no additional positions or staffing are projected to be required.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Public Instruction

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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DATE: March 9, 2009



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