

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 137 (Fourth Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Military Death/In-State Tuition/Dependent.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Hunt

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No () No Estimate Available (X)

FY 2009-10 FY 2010-11 FY 2011-12 FY 2012-13 FY 2013-14

REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

POSITIONS (cumulative):

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &

PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: University of North Carolina; Community College System

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act becomes effective October 1, 2009.

BILL SUMMARY:

The bill provides that a dependent relative of a member of the armed services abiding in North Carolina incident to active military duty shall be eligible for in-state tuition for 10 years after the soldier's death. If the dependent is continuously enrolled in a degree program before the expiration of the 10 year period, then the dependent shall continue to pay in-state tuition until the degree is completed.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Due to a large military presence in North Carolina, there could be a fiscal impact due to SB 137. However, predicting the exact five year impact of this legislation is not possible. In September 2006 there were 102,845 active military personnel and 30,031 Reserve/National Guard personnel stationed in North Carolina. (U.S. Census Bureau) If the NC based troops mirror national data, then approximately 58% of these military personnel are married. (American Forces Press Service) Since March 2003, 520 North Carolina based troops have died in Iraq. (icasualties.org) If the dependents of these troops move to their home state upon the death of their spouses/parents but later return to North Carolina for higher education within ten years, then the state is obligated to offer them in-state tuition and thus forgo the higher nonresident tuition. Military dependents still must meet a NC institution's academic qualifications for admission.

The bill's fiscal impact is restricted somewhat because a 10 year limitation on the tuition benefit will reduce the number of eligible dependent children. Of those troops that have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, 51.5% have been less than 24 years old and another 25.7% were between 25 and 30 years old. (U.S. Department of Defense) The children of these slain soldiers will probably not reach college age before the expiration of the 10 year limit.

SOURCES OF DATA: The 2009 Statistical Abstract (U.S. Census Bureau); 12/4/08 article by American Forces Press Service; icasualties.org on 7/27/09; U.S. Department of Defense

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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