

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 50

SHORT TITLE: Optometry Changes

SPONSOR(S): Representative Mike Wilkins

FISCAL IMPACT: **Expenditures:** **Increase ()** **Decrease ()**
 Revenues: **Increase ()** **Decrease ()**
 No Impact (x)
 No Estimate Available ()

FUND AFFECTED: **General Fund ()** **Highway Fund ()** **Local Fund ()**
 Other Funds ()

BILL SUMMARY: TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN MEDICAL COST CONTAINMENT THROUGH REVISION OF THE HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES LAW, TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN OPTOMETRIST TO COLLABORATE WITH A PHYSICIAN IN THE USE OR PRESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS, TO ESTABLISH PEER PREVIEW FOR OPTOMETRISTS, AND TO ESTABLISH AN OPTOMETRIST PRIVILEGE. Makes the following changes in the law related to optometry: (1) Deletes from GS 90-114 the requirement that an optometrist using or prescribing pharmaceutical agents must communicate and collaborate with a physician; (2) Amends GS 131E-85 to add optometrists to the list (which now consists of physicians, dentists and podiatrists) of persons as to whom the granting or denying of privileges to practice in a hospital (and the procedures to be followed in considering applications) is to be determined by the governing body of the hospital; (3) Adds new Article 6A ("Optometry Peer Review") to GS Ch. 90 to permit the State Board of Examiners in Optometry to enter into agreements with the NC State Optometries Society for the purpose of conducting peer reviews of clinical outcomes as they relate to the quality of health care delivered by optometrists: and (4) Adds a new GS 8-53.9 providing that no licensed optometrist may be required to disclose any information that may have been acquired in rendering professional services, except that a presiding judge of a superior or district court may compel disclosure, if, in the court's opinion, disclosure is necessary or proper to the administration of justice and disclosure is not otherwise prohibited by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon ratification

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:

FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>
	<u>FY</u>			
	1995-96	1996-97		
EXPENDITURES				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-0-	-0-		
STATE FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
LOCAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
RECEIPTS/FEES				

POSITIONS:

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

SOURCES OF DATA: Pharmaceutical Association, Hospital Association, Optometric Society

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

PREPARED BY: Michele T. Nelson

APPROVED BY: Tom L. Covington

DATE: March 2, 1995

Official
Fiscal Research Division
Publication



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices