

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 745

**SHORT TITLE:** State Pay Election Legal Notices

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Ives

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Yes ( )      No ( )      No Estimate Available ( x )**

**FY 1997-98   FY 1998-99   FY 1999-00   FY 2000-01   FY 2001-02**

**REVENUES**

**EXPENDITURES:** Costs to the State of this bill would be about \$50,000 in years where bond referenda were submitted to voters. Because bond questions are submitted to voters only as a result of actions by the General Assembly, we cannot reliably estimate the frequency with which these costs would be incurred by the State.

**POSITIONS:**

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &  
PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** State Board of Elections

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** When bill becomes law

**BILL SUMMARY:** *TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE SHALL PAY THE COST OF ANY REQUIRED LEGAL ADVERTISING IT REQUIRES COUNTIES TO PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH ANY REFERENDUM PLACED ON THE BALLOT BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*

Amends GS 163-33(8) to require the State Board of Elections to reimburse county boards of elections for costs of notices, advertisements, and publications for elections on state bond issues, amendments to the state constitution, or approval of acts submitted to the voters of the state.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** This bill would require the State Board of Elections to reimburse counties for legal advertising associated with state-wide bond referenda and amendments to the state constitution. County boards of election can easily incorporate legal advertising for referenda on constitutional amendments into the legal advertising to announce general elections; adding amendment announcements to routine legal advertising rarely

generates additional costs. Where this bill would cost the State Board of Elections would be in situations where state bond referenda were advertised. Bond referenda require more lengthy legal advertisements than do amendment questions, and state bond attorneys often request that bond referenda questions be advertised separately from other election issues.

The State Board of Elections estimates that the cost of placing advertisements for bond referenda would be no more than \$50,000 every even-numbered year. Because the State has historically reimbursed all county expenses associated with special elections, this bill is unlikely to generate any additional costs in situations where special bond referenda are being held. The bill would generate additional costs only in situations where general elections were being held (even-numbered years) and state-wide bond referenda were being submitted to voters. Because we cannot project the frequency with which bond referenda would be submitted to voters, we cannot provide a reliable estimate of what this bill would cost. However, based on the information provided the State Board of Elections, we believe that the bill is unlikely to cost more than \$50,000 every even-numbered year.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

**733-4910**

**PREPARED BY:** Evan Rodewald

**APPROVED BY:** Tom Covington **TomC**

**DATE:** April 30, 1997



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**