

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note



BILL NUMBER: House Bill 955 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Expand Membership/Currituck Game Commission.

SPONSOR(S): Representative Owens

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						
Wildlife Resources Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Currituck Game Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXPENDITURES						
Wildlife Resources Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Currituck Game Commission	*** See Assumptions & Methodology ***					
POSITIONS (cumulative):						
Wildlife Resources Commission	0	0	0	0		0
Currituck Game Commission*	2	2	2	2		2

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

Wildlife Resources Commission
Currituck County Game Commission

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective July 1, 2009

* The Currituck Game Commission is not a state agency; its Commissioners are not state employees

BILL SUMMARY:

H.B. 955 amends Section 5 and Section 18 of Chapter 1436 of the 1957 Session Laws. These changes add two members to the Currituck County Game Commission (the Commission), an increase from five to seven members, and stipulate that the members are to be chosen from each of the county’s five commissioner residency districts instead of the county’s four townships; two members would be at-large members not representing one of the commissioner districts. H.B. 955 also sets the commissioners’ travel reimbursement at the IRS business standard rate (presently, \$0.55/ mile) and increases the compensation paid to the commission chairman, commissioners, and commission clerk. Lastly, H.B. 955 amends Section 20 of Chapter 1436 of the 1957 Session Laws to provide that no float blinds may be tied within 300 yards of any residence.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The Commission is responsible for licensing of all bush, point, and float hunting blinds in Currituck County and has the authority to prescribe rules and regulations regarding the hunting of waterfowl. The Commission also establishes sanctuaries and areas in which no waterfowl may be shot, hunted, or disturbed. It has two regularly scheduled meetings each year but may meet more often at the discretion of the Commission. The Commission is not a state entity and is not governed in any manner by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC).

The Commission derives revenue from the sale of waterfowl hunting blind licenses. This revenue is used to support Commission activities and to pay WRC to offset the law enforcement costs that WRC incurs in the county. WRC has received payments of \$6,400 per year from the Commission since FY 2000-2001. WRC does not anticipate that H.B. 955 will impact the Commission’s ability to continue reimbursing WRC for law enforcement. The Commission has existed for over six decades, which, according to WRC, reflects the Commission’s commitment to sound fiscal management and to its deeply-rooted waterfowl traditions.

Revenue Impact

Since the Commission’s revenues come from the sale of waterfowl hunting blind licenses, H.B. 955 is not expected to impact revenue collections for the Commission. Moreover, WRC does not expect its revenue from the Commission (\$6,400 per year) to change as a result of this bill.

Expenditure Impact

H.B. 955 will impact the expenditures of the Commission. Adding two new members and increasing the compensation and mileage reimbursement rate for the Commission will increase the Commission’s operating costs by over \$5,000. Table 1 shows expenditures resulting from the additional members and from the proposed increase in compensation.

Table 1: Change in Expenditures due to Membership & Compensation Changes

	Number of Members		Compensation		Expenditures	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Clerk	1	1	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Member	4	6	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 6,000
Chairman	1	1	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>			<i>\$ 3,500</i>	<i>\$ 8,500</i>

H.B. 955 will also increase reimbursement costs due to a change in the mileage reimbursement rate. Presently, General Statute sets the reimbursement rate at \$0.15 per mile; H.B. 955 increases this rate to the standard business rate set by the IRS, which is currently \$0.55 per mile. Since H.B. 955 sets reimbursement at the IRS standard business rate, this mileage reimbursement would change with each change made by the IRS. The \$0.40 cent increase in reimbursement proposed in H.B. 955 will increase expenditures for the Commission. However, without detailed information on membership, location and number of meeting, etc, the fiscal impact of the reimbursement change cannot be calculated. Table 2 shows the reimbursement changes proposed in H.B. 955.

Table 2: Reimbursement Amounts

	Current	Proposed
Per Diem	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Reimbursement per Mile	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.55

SOURCES OF DATA:

Wildlife Resources Commission
 Currituck Game Commission Website

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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