

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1963 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Speak, Read, & Write English/Driver License.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Brubaker and Howard

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No ()	No Estimate Available (X)		
	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>	<u>FY 2014-15</u>
REVENUES			Fiscal impact cannot be determined. Cost savings are possible but cannot be determined.		
EXPENDITURES					
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	October 1, 2010				

BILL SUMMARY:

This bill amends G.S. 20-7(b1) by adding the requirement that an applicant under the Uniform Driver’s License Act be able to proficiently speak, or read and write the English language to obtain a license or other card from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). It amends G.S. 20-7(c) by requiring a person to pass an examination that is given in the English language only, regardless of whether the exam is oral or written. Additional conforming changes are made to prohibit the DMV from publishing any handbook or examination in a language other than English. Effective October 1, 2010, and applies to license applications and renewals on or after that date

Source: Bill Digest H.B. 1963 (05/25/0201).

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) indicates there will be no fiscal impact. Daily operations of the Driver Services Section may be impacted but DMV is unsure of the expectations of staff to determine if someone is proficient in the English language. It is the Division's assumption that a customer who successfully completes the test administered by the automated testing system is considered to be proficient in the English language.

Fiscal staff believes DMV will incur an unknown amount of cost savings from Section 3 of this bill, which requires that all DMV examinations or handbooks be in no other language than English. However, the "handbooks" language is vague and does not appear to explicitly prohibit all publications, such as pamphlets or fact sheets, or material contained on the DMV website in languages other than English. It is not possible for fiscal staff or DMV staff to determine cost savings based on the current language.

The automated testing system enables DMV to offer the test in nine different languages. Minimal IT costs may be incurred by DMV to remove the eight non-English tests from the automated testing system, but these costs are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed in its existing budget.

SOURCES OF DATA: Division of Motor Vehicles

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Based on the fiscal impact review in the second paragraph of the "Assumptions and Methodology" section, Section 3 of this bill may need further clarification.

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DATE: June 8, 2010



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