

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2013

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 392 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Share Arrest Warrant Status/Pub. Assistance.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Arp, Horn, Starnes, and Burr

FISCAL IMPACT					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No Estimate Available		
State Impact	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
General Fund Revenues:	144,841				
General Fund Expenditures:					
Special Fund Revenues:					
Special Fund Expenditures:					
State Positions:					
NET STATE IMPACT	\$144,841	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Impact					
Revenues:					
Expenditures:					
NET LOCAL IMPACT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: NC Department of Health and Human Services					
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2013					
TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Yes - See Technical Considerations Section					

BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 392 would require a County Department of Social Services (DSS) to conduct a criminal history check on applicants for or recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) benefits or Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits. This bill would also require DSS to share information with a local law enforcement agency regarding an applicant for or recipient of TANF or FNS benefits who has an outstanding arrest warrant. Finally, House Bill 392 would require DSS to deny TANF or FNS benefits to an applicant or recipient subject to an outstanding warrant for a felony charge or for a probation parole violation.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on information obtained from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, their determination is that the existing resources (human resources) are adequate to handle the increased number of database queries associated with the proposed policy. However, the Department in the process of transitioning to a new IT system (NC FAST) which will require reconfiguration to allow for compliance with the proposed policy change.

These changes to the NC FAST system are detailed below:

Configure NC FAST to connect with other IT systems	\$14,218.75
Reconfigure NC FAST to utilize new evidence in eligibility determination	\$79,528.74
Build the interface for NC FAST to retrieve data from other systems	<u>\$51,093.75</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	\$144,841.24

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is a potential impact on local Counties as a function of increased coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts and Local Law Enforcement. The requirement of Counties to act on the information obtained through currently accessible databases, would potentially require increased staffing for County Departments of Social Services. These costs are indeterminate.

It is not possible to estimate any savings achieved through the denial of benefits to applicants for the following reasons:

- no estimates are available on the number of felons or probation/parole violators currently receiving benefits;
- actionable information unavailable: 1) database often contain outdated warrants; 2) the applicable law enforcement agency may not be interested in pursuing the warrant;

SOURCES OF DATA:

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Data Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services System in North Carolina.

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