



# NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2021

## Legislative Fiscal Note

**Short Title:** Arson Law Revisions.  
**Bill Number:** House Bill 315 (Third Edition)  
**Sponsor(s):**

### SUMMARY TABLE

#### FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B. 315, V.3

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
<b>State Impact</b>					
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-
<b>General Fund Impact</b>	<b>No Fiscal Impact</b>				

<b>NET STATE IMPACT</b>	<b>No Fiscal Impact</b>				
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<b>STATE POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** See Technical Considerations Section

### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

The Committee Substitute for House Bill 315 would increase the punishment for certain arson offenses; amend the offense of arson resulting in injury to a firefighter, law enforcement officer, fire investigator, or emergency medical technician; authorize the Commissioner of Insurance, through the Office of State Fire Marshal to investigate fires; and would require criminal history background checks of applicants to fire departments, require applicants to disclose certain convictions, and prohibit persons convicted of certain crimes from serving as a volunteer or paid member of a fire department.

The bill would have little budgetary impact on the current role of the Department of Insurance, State Office of the Fire Marshal (Office), in the investigation of fires. Chapter 58, Article 79 of the NC General Statutes currently authorizes the Office to investigate the cause or origin of fires. The Committee Substitute for HB 315 allows the Office to investigate fires independent of the SBI, except in cases involving death or serious bodily injury, where the SBI would retain the exclusive right to supervise and direct an investigation. Since the bill does not expand the Office’s authority to investigate the cause and origins of fires, the bill would have no negligible impact on the Office or the Department of Insurance budget.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

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The Department of Insurance, Office of State Fire Marshal arson investigation current staff include 7 FTE Certified Forensic Fire Investigator positions and 3.0 FTE engineering positions to support investigations. The Office currently has the capacity to implement House Bill 315 with no additional resources.

## **TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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N/A.

## **DATA SOURCES**

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Department of Insurance

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS MEMORANDUM – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

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This document is a fiscal analysis of a bill, draft bill, amendment, committee substitute, or conference committee report that is confidential under Chapter 120 of the General Statutes. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts. This document is not an official fiscal note. If a formal fiscal note is requested, please email your request to the Fiscal Research Division at [FiscalNoteRequests@ncleg.net](mailto:FiscalNoteRequests@ncleg.net) or call (919) 733-4910.

## **LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

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This document is an official fiscal analysis prepared pursuant to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and rules adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Questions on this analysis should be directed to the Fiscal Research Division at (919) 733-4910.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY**

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Karen Hammonds-Blanks

## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY**

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September 2, 2021



**Signed copy located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**