

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 548

SHORT TITLE: Seafood Park Authority/No Guns

SPONSOR(S): Representative R. Thompson

FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures:	Increase ( )	Decrease ( )
Revenues:	Increase ( )	Decrease ( )
No Impact (X)		
No Estimate Available ( )		

FUND AFFECTED:

General Fund ( )	Highway Fund ( )	Local Fund ( )
Other Fund ( )		

BILL SUMMARY: Adds G.S. 113-315.40 prohibiting the discharge of firearms on or directed at the premises of the N.C. Seafood Industrial Park Authority. Makes violation a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$50, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon ratification.

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Judicial Department

FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>FY</u> 93-94	<u>FY</u> 94-95	<u>FY</u> 95-96	<u>FY</u> 96-97	<u>FY</u> 97-98
EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0
RECURRING					
NON-RECURRING					
REVENUES/RECEIPTS	0	0	0	0	0
RECURRING					
NON-RECURRING					

POSITIONS: No new positions.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) does not anticipate that this bill would have a substantial fiscal impact on the Judicial Branch. The AOC predicts that there would be very few new misdemeanor filings resulting from this bill. As noted by the AOC, "(t)he Park Authority is located in Wanchese, an unincorporated fishing village in Dare County. The Park Authority consists of 69 acres: 15 in the harbor, 15 in a marshy buffer zone, and the remaining 39 on which the park Authority's buildings and some private businesses are located.

"According to the Administrator of the Park Authority, some people have been coming onto the Park Authority land to target shoot. There have also been a few complaints concerning the shooting of waterfowl and

other wildlife. The Administrator estimated between 10 to 25 incidents of some type of shooting on Park lands over the past year. However, a Dare County Sheriff's Department supervisor, in charge of the area in which the Park Authority is located, said that he could not recall a single Park Authority shooting incident in which the Sheriff's Department had been called.

"The Sheriff's Department currently has no statutory authority to take action against these shootings. The Park Authority is concerned for the safety of people working in the Park, as well as those walking on Park lands.

"Due to the relative infrequency of the shooting complaints, we feel that the additional number of misdemeanor filings in Dare County would be minimal if the bill were to pass. In addition, we would expect that once the law was publicized, as the Park Authority intends to do by posting signs prohibiting shooting, these few incidents would quickly dwindle."

Although the AOC is not predicting a substantial fiscal impact on the Judicial Branch due to this individual bill, the AOC notes that at some point, "the cumulative additional workload from bills that impact on the courts cannot simply be absorbed, and additional resources will be required."

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Administrative Office of the Courts; N.C. Seafood Industrial Park Authority; Dare County Sheriff's Department

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

**733-4910**

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**DATE:** 15-APR-93

**[FRD#003]**



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