

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 534

SHORT TITLE: NO PASSING STOPPED SCHOOL BUS

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE DECKER

FISCAL IMPACT: Expenditures: Increase () Decrease ()
No Impact (X)

BILL SUMMARY: "TO PROVIDE THAT EVIDENCE THAT A MOTOR VEHICLE PASSED A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE WAS OPERATING IT AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION." Amends G.S. 20-217 as title indicates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 1, 1995

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Judicial Branch; Department of Correction

FISCAL IMPACT

Table with fiscal years (FY 95-96 to FY 98-99) and expenditure categories (EXPENDITURES, NON-RECURRING, RECURRING NO FISCAL IMPACT).

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The proposed legislation would make proof that a motor vehicle passed a stopped school bus prima facie (sufficient) evidence that the owner of the vehicle was operating it at the time of the violation. If convicted of passing a stopped school bus, one may face a fine not to exceed \$200 or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or both.

Based on the number of such offenses charged statewide during 1994, approximately 852 (with 215 convictions), the Administrative Office of the Courts believes that the small increase in cases and trials which could result from the proposed legislation could be absorbed within current Judicial Branch resources. Thus, the Administrative Office of the Courts does not anticipate that the proposed legislation would have a significant fiscal impact on the Judicial Branch at this time.

In addition, a slight increase in the conviction rate would not significantly impact the Department of Correction.

SOURCES OF DATA: Administrative Office of the Courts; North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION (733-4910)

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DATE: May 31, 1995

[FRD#003]

Official
Fiscal Research Division
Publication



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