

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2007

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 38 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Missing Persons Alert/Persons w/Dementia.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Earle, Insko, Womble, and Parmon

		FISCAL IMPACT				
		Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
		<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>
REVENUES:	N/A					
EXPENDITURES:						
Crime Control & Public Safety	<i>The development of new procedures/guidelines and training of media could increase workload for the NCCMP to some degree; however, minimal fiscal impact is assumed. Current procedures, guidelines, and resources should largely meet the requirements of this bill.</i>					
DOT – ITS Division of Highways	<i>No significant fiscal impact anticipated. There is no incremental cost for usage of Dynamic Message Signs.</i>					
POSITIONS:	N/A					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: North Carolina Center for Missing Persons, Department of Crime Control and Public Safety; Department of Transportation.						
EFFECTIVE DATE: When bill becomes law.						

BILL SUMMARY: This legislation would rewrite G.S. 143B-499.1 to require the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons to, upon receipt of a missing person report involving an individual believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment, issue a statewide alert that provides information regarding the missing person. It directs the Center to develop/adopt guidelines and procedures for issuing the alert, and to provide education and training to promote the participation of radio and television broadcasters. The bill also directs the Center to consult with the Department of Transportation to provide for the use of overhead Dynamic Message Signs, when appropriate, to facilitate recovery of the missing person.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Department of Crime Control & Public Safety: North Carolina Center for Missing Persons

North Carolina's AMBER Alert System, in its current capacity, provides solely for the statewide dissemination of information concerning *missing children who are believed to have been abducted, and/or are believed to be in danger of injury or death* (G.S. 143B-499.7). The alert process engages a network of law enforcement and community entities, and is coordinated by the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons. A brief overview of the alert process is provided below.

- When any missing person report is received by local law enforcement, pertinent case information is entered into the National Crime Information Center (FBI/NCIC) database; the case is then reported to the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons (NCCMP) via the Division of Criminal Information (DCI) system. Typically, an administrative message is also sent via DCI to area law enforcement.
- If case criteria match those required for Amber Alerts (G.S. 143B-499.7), NCCMP is contacted directly; during non-office hours, calls are forwarded to the N.C. State Highway Patrol Communications Center (SHP). If NCCMP or SHP determines an alert is warranted, local law enforcement is provided with a code that allows for an Amber Alert broadcast message to be sent to all DCI users. *This message is sent to all currently operating Mobile Data Terminals statewide.*
- NCCMP also prepares and sends a script to SHP for broadcast on the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Should an issuance problem arise, this broadcast is issued from the Emergency Operations Center of the Division of Emergency Management.
- When circumstances warrant further alert, NCCMP contacts the N.C. Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems Unit (DOT-ITS) to request activation of some, or all Dynamic Message Signs within the state.
- Lastly, NCCMP notifies CCPS Public Affairs to prepare a news release for media broadcast.

Given the necessary development of alert issuance criteria/procedures for this new alert category, and required training of radio and television broadcasters, some increase in Center workload is expected. However, it is assumed that existing guidelines and processes for AMBER Alerts should correspond with those required by H.B. 38. Therefore, Fiscal Research anticipates minimal fiscal impact due to this proposal.

Actual costs may vary, however, depending upon media receptiveness and NCCMP training efforts. To date, no formal training has been provided to television or radio broadcasters. In addition, this analysis does not assume that the State would purchase radio or television airtime, should the media prove unreceptive to this new alert category.

Department of Transportation: Intelligent Transportation Systems Unit

The requisite development of alert issuance criteria/procedures, in consultation with the NCCMP, may result in some increased workload for DOT-ITS. However, any impact is presumed minimal. DOT does not incur incremental costs for usage of its Dynamic Message Signs.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Crime Control and Public Safety: Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, NC Center for Missing Persons; Department of Transportation.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Bryce Ball, Jean Sandaire, and Lisa Hollowell

APPROVED BY: Lynn Muchmore, Director
Fiscal Research Division

DATE: March 21, 2007



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices