

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB 611

SHORT TITLE: Voc Rehab Council Change

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Alexander, Baddour, Barnhill, Bowman, D. Brown, Church, Cunningham, Dickson, Easterling, Esposito, Fussell, Gardner, Griffin, Hill, Ives, McLaughlin, Moore and Redwine

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

FUND AFFECTED: **General Fund (x)** **Highway Fund ()** **Local Govt. ()**
 Other Funds ()

BILL SUMMARY: Amends GS 143-548 to establish Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council (now, Business and Consumer Council) within cited division to consist of 17 (now, 15) members appointed by Governor. Members of council to include at least one representative each of division's Statewide Independent Living Council, parent training and information center, community rehabilitation program services providers, regional rehabilitation centers for physically disabled, and division's Client Assistance Program; one vocational rehabilitation counselor; four representatives of business, industry, and labor; representatives of disability advocacy groups as specified in bill; and current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services. Council's duties include: (1) review, analyze, and advise division on performance of its responsibilities under specified federal laws; (2) advise Department of Human Resources and division, and at department's discretion, assist in preparing applications, state plan, etc. required by specified federal laws; (3) review and analyze effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with specified agencies and vocational rehabilitation services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective upon ratification.

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Human Resources

	FISCAL IMPACT				
	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98
	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>
EXPENDITURES	\$14,810	\$14,810	\$14,810	\$14,810	\$14,810
	\$14,810				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					
STATE FUNDS	2,962	2,962	2,962	2,962	2,962
FEDERAL FUNDS	11,848	11,848	11,848	11,848	11,848
LOCAL FUNDS					

**OTHER FUNDS
RECEIPTS/FEEES**

POSITIONS: N/A

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The Bill calls for council members to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with GS 138-5. GS 138-5 provides for a \$15 per diem compensation per member plus subsistence and travel reimbursements allowed for state officers and employees. This is currently 25¢ a mile for travel and \$55 per day for meals and lodging. In addition to these allowances, members of the council who have disabilities may receive reimbursement for personal assistance services that are necessary for them to be able to attend meetings and perform council duties. These expenses shall not exceed the actual cost of the services or the Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal assistance services, which ever is less. Since the actual cost of the services cannot be determined at this time, the Medicaid rate for Personal Care Services will be used to calculate the potential cost of this portion of the bill. It is currently \$9.88 per hour.

It is assumed that all 17 members of the council would be eligible for this reimbursement since the bill requires that the majority of council members be persons who are individuals with disabilities. It is also assumed that the council will meet for one day, four times during the year. The bill requires that the council meet at least quarterly. Expenditures for the council are eligible for Federal participation at a rate of approximately 80% federal to 20% state.

Calculation of fiscal impact.

Personal care services: \$9.88 hr. x 8 hours x 17 members x 4 meetings =	\$ 5,375
Meals and lodging: \$55 per day x 4 days x 17 members =	3,740
Travel: 25¢ mile x 275 miles x 4 meetings x 17 members =	4,675
Compensation: \$15 per day x 4 days x 17 members =	<u>1,020</u>
Total	\$14,810

SOURCES OF DATA:

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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DATE: 14 April 93



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