

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 423

SHORT TITLE: Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act/AB

SPONSOR(S): Senators Lucas, Parnell, Allran, McDaniel, East, Albertson, Warren, Jordan, Dannelly, Martin of Pitt, and Perdue.

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

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

BILL SUMMARY: Repeals GS 143-545 and replaces with new GS 143-545A directing the Department of Human Resources to establish and operate comprehensive and accountable programs providing vocational rehabilitation and independent living services for persons with disabilities. These services are to include assessment services to determine eligibility and rehabilitation needs; counseling, guidance, and referral services; physical and mental restoration services; reader services; vocational and other training services; job development and job placement services; interpreter services; on-the-job or other related personal assistance services; training services necessary for living in the community; and supported employment services. Directs the Department to adopt a formula for a schedule of rates and fees to be paid by an applicant for services including procedures for consideration of those needing financial assistance. Directs the Department to establish formal appeal procedures consistent with federal regulations permitting any applicant or current client who is dissatisfied with the denial or furnishing of services to seek timely review of such determinations. Repeals GS 143-546 and replaces with new GS 143-546A directing the Secretary to cooperate with other State agencies in carrying out programs under this act and also to cooperate with federal agencies in the administration of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1995

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

FISCAL IMPACT

REVENUES:
GENERAL FUND
FY95-96 FY96-97 FY97-98 FY98-99 FY99-00

HIGHWAY FUND						
HIGHWAY TRUST FUND						
LOCAL						
EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
POSITIONS:	0	0	0	0	0	0

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The purpose of SB 423 is to establish North Carolina's vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs in state law rather than simply authorizing the Department of Human Resources, as a Designated State Agency, to administer federal vocational rehabilitation laws. SB 423 does not expand existing vocational rehabilitation services and does limit the state's obligation to provide these services, "...to the maximum extent possible within available resources." should future federal funding be reduced.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Human Resources

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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DATE: May 8, 1995

[FRD#001]



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