

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 1022 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Asphalt Emissions Monitoring

SPONSOR(S): Senators Kinnaird and Foxx

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No (x) No Estimate Available ()

FY 1997-98 FY 1998-99 FY 1999-00 FY 2000-01 FY 2001-02

REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

No Impact (see Assumptions and Methodology)

POSITIONS:

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &

PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality

EFFECTIVE DATE: When it becomes law.

BILL SUMMARY:

TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE EMISSIONS OF AIR POLLUTANTS FROM ASPHALT PLANTS. Requires Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources to establish task force on asphalt plants for purpose indicated in title. Task force must report its findings and recommendations by Jan. 1, 1998 to Environmental Review Commission regarding impact of emissions of air pollutants from asphalt plants on public health and environment.¹

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

¹ *Daily Bulletin*, Institute of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill, Vol. 1997, No. 47.

Currently, asphalt plants are not required to demonstrate compliance with the state's air toxic regulations because it is believed that air toxic emissions from these plants result from the combustion of unadulterated fuel, which is an exempt event under current regulations. However, a report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates that toxic emissions may be originating from processes other than the combustion of fuel.

Due to this concern, the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality is currently reviewing all new, relocated, renewed and modified asphalt plants for air toxins in accordance with current air quality permit procedures, although the plants are not required to be in compliance. As part of the review, sufficient information is being collected to develop a model to improve the division's understanding of asphalt plant emissions and to determine whether the state's air toxic regulations should apply to asphalt plants.

The Division of Air Quality has formed a work group to evaluate the information gathered from the plant review and modeling effort, as well as the current procedures and requirements for permitting asphalt plants. The group will also address the health risks associated with asphalt plants and make a determination regarding the need to monitor plant emissions.

Membership of the work group includes representatives from the Carolina Asphalt Pavers Association, North Carolina Department of Transportation, DEHNR Division of Epidemiology, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Western North Carolina Air Pollution Control Agency, and staff from the Division of Air Quality. The meetings are open and other interested parties are invited to participate.

The department believes the work group's charge will satisfy the requirements of Senate Bill 1022. Since the work group is already convened, and the data collection and modeling initiative is already underway and funded with current program funds, the Division of Air Quality does not anticipate needing additional funds to enact the requirements of this bill.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

PREPARED BY: Mona Moon

APPROVED BY: Tom Covington **TomC**

DATE: April 29, 1997



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