

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Research
733-4910

Prepared By: Nina Yeager	Date Prepared: 6/15/89	Bill No.: H 655	Edition:
Approved By: Tom L. Covington TOMC	JUNE 19, 1989	Sponsor: Rep. Sidney Locks	
Short Title: Medicaid/Spousal Responsibility			

TYPE OF FISCAL IMPACT	COUNTY		FUNDS AFFECTED:		
	State Gov't	Local Gov't	(X) General	() Highway	() Other: Local
			State Fiscal Impact		
				FY 89-90	FY 90-91
No Fiscal Impact () ()			State Total Req'ments	4,700,000	6,000,000
			Receipts/Revenues	3,431,000	4,380,000
Increase Expenditure (X) (X)			Net State Expend./Rev.	1,260,000	1,620,000
FUNDS BUDGETED IN CONTINUATION BUDGET;					
Decrease Expenditure () ()			Local Fiscal Impact		
				FY	FY
Increase Revenue () ()			Local Total Req'ments	4,700,000	6,000,000
Decrease Revenue () ()			Receipts/Revenues	4,465,000	5,700,000
			Net Local Expend./Rev.	235,000	300,000
No Add'l State Approp. Required			No. of Positions		

Description of Legislation

1. Summary of Legislation

This bill repeals legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 1979 which required that the income and financial resources of the spouse of a long term care patient be counted for 180 days toward the patients eligibility for medical assistance.

The federal Medicare Catastrophic Health Care Act of 1988 mandates that state Medicaid programs provide for a larger share of a couples income and assets to be protected for the spouse remaining at home when the partner must be placed in a nursing home. Under current law, the at home spouse may retain up to the state's medically needy income level, which is \$242 per month in North Carolina. Under the federal catastrophic Health Care Act an at home spouse may retain 122% of the federal poverty level in 89-90 (\$786/mo) and 133% of the federal povety level in 90-91. These income thresholds

3. Fiscal/Revenue Assumptions

Sources of Data for Fiscal Note

Department of Human Resources, Division
of Medical Assistance

Technical Considerations/Comments

Official
Fiscal Research Division
Publication



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices