

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 255

SHORT TITLE: Counselor Licensing

July 1, 1994

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: None

FISCAL IMPACT

SPONSOR(S): Senator Laura Tally

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

FUND AFFECTED: **General Fund ()** **Highway Fund ()** **Local Fund ()**
 Other Fund ()

BILL SUMMARY:

S 255. COUNSELOR LICENSING (=H 218). "TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF COUNSELING AND THE LICENSURE OF COUNSELORS." Identical to H 218, introduced on 19 February. Introduced by Tally

AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES-Apr. 30, 1993 S 255. COUNSELOR LICENSING. Intro. 3/11. Senate committee substitute adds section exempting from regulation under this act: (1) persons licensed or certified to practice any other occupation or profession while rendering counseling services in connection with their profession; (2) certified school counselors; (3) student interns or trainees; (4) members of the clergy; (5) for up to 30 days per year, nonresident counselors licensed in another state while temporarily in NC; (6) government employees counseling within scope of employment. Prohibits exempt individuals from using title "Licensed Professional Counselor." Exempts persons licensed under Licensed Professional Counselors Act from rules pertaining to counseling adopted by other occupational licensing boards.

AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES-June 23, 1993 S 255. COUNSELOR LICENSING. Intro. 3/11; comm. sub. 4/29. Senate committee substitute adds exemption for any person performing mental health counseling solely as an employee of an area facility, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(14)a. if the services are provided by a qualified mental health professional who meets or exceeds the minimum educational requirements for licensure and the area facility obtains certification from relevant

boards that the employee has not had his or her license, registration or certification revoked, rescinded, or suspended. Adds requirement that each member of Board shall reside in a different congressional district. Adds to exemption from academic qualifications an applicant who holds a masters degree (and was enrolled in the masters program prior to July 1, 1994) from a regionally accredited college or university or from a college or university determined by the Board to have equivalent standards. Also makes various technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1994

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: None

	FISCAL IMPACT				
	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>
EXPENDITURES					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					
STATE FUNDS					
FEDERAL FUNDS	N/A				
LOCAL FUNDS					
OTHER FUNDS					
RECEIPTS/FEES					

POSITIONS: N/A

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The no fiscal impact conclusion is based on information contained in the Bill on page 5, lines 31-32 which specifies that no state appropriations shall be subject to the administration of the Board. The companion bill, HB 218 further states on page 9, lines 3-5 that no third party reimbursement is required. Based on these bill provisions no fiscal impact is expected.

SOURCES OF DATA: The Board of Registered Practicing Counselors.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Information on current expenditures was not available at the time of this note, but the Board anticipates licensing requirement as specified in the Bill would increase their response by about 100% the first year. The Board further anticipates that violations in the licensing requirements would generate an additional expenditure to the Board through the hearing processing. The increase in application and renewal fees requested in the Bill would provide a slight cushion to the Board so as not to require an annual adjustment.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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