

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 730

SHORT TITLE: Fire Misdemeanors Re-enacted

SPONSOR(S): Senator Kerr

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

BILL SUMMARY: "TO RE-ENACT, WITH MODIFICATIONS, CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS RELATING TO FIRES." Enacts new G.S. 14-138.1 to provide that starting a fire in any grassland, brushland, or woodland without fully extinguishing it is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days. Enacts new G.S. 14-140.1 to provide that burning brush, grass, or other material without keeping a careful watchman in charge is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon ratification.

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Judicial Branch; Department of Correction

FISCAL IMPACT

<u>FY</u> 95-96	<u>FY</u> 96-97	<u>FY</u> 97-98	<u>FY</u> 98-99
<u>FY</u> 99-00			

EXPENDITURES
NON-RECURRING

RECURRING NO FISCAL IMPACT

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Under current law, persons committing an offense contained within the proposed legislation may be charged under the following statutory provisions:

- G.S. 14-127 - injury to trees, crops, land, etc. of another;
- G.S. 14-128 - setting fire to grass and brushland and woodlands; or
- G.S. 14-136 - willfully or negligently setting fire to woods and fields.

Given that legal remedies are already available with regards to these offenses, the Administrative Office of the Courts would not expect new defendants to enter the court system as a result of the proposed legislation.

SOURCES OF DATA: Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC Court Information System); North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION (733-4910)

PREPARED BY: Whitney A. Obrig
Jim Mills

APPROVED BY: Tom Covington **TomC**

DATE: May 23, 1995

[FRD#003]

Official
Fiscal Research Division
Publication



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices