

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: H.B. 1546 SCS (Forth Edition of the Bill)

SHORT TITLE: Greenville Fees/Weedy Lots

SPONSOR(S): Rep. Tolson

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>
REVENUES					
	NO GENERAL FUND IMPACT				
Greenville	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500
Denton	0	0	0	0	0
Farmville	0	0	0	0	0
EXPENDITURES					
	NO GENERAL FUND IMPACT				
	Some reduction in postal expenditures by listed municipalities.				
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Towns of Denton and Farmville, and the City of Greenville.					
EFFECTIVE DATE: When it becomes law.					

BILL SUMMARY: This bill applies to the Towns of Denton and Farmville, and the City of Greenville. The bill has two parts. First, the bill authorizes the listed municipalities to charge a five dollar (\$ 5.00) fee for an uncertified copy of police incident or accident report. The operator of a vehicle involved in an accident is entitled to one free uncertified copy of the report. The fees provide additional law enforcement funding. The second part of the bill addresses overgrown lots. The bill authorizes Greenville, Farmville, and Denton to notify the owner of a chronically overgrown lot of the municipality's overgrown vegetation ordinance. The bill authorizes the municipality to "remedy" the violation, (mow, etc.) once the owner is notified and again found in violation. The cost associated with mowing become the equalivent of a tax lien against the property. Under the bill, notice must be given at least once during the calendar year. The bill

defines a chronic violator as a person who owns property sited at least three times during the previous calendar year for overgrown vegetation.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Greenville: According to the City Attorney, Greenville receives approximately 10,000 requests per year for uncertified accident reports. (This number does not include those requested by the media. Under the current system, the media can view a compilation of reports, and do not ask the police department to make copies). Of the 10,000 requests, approximately 25% are from vehicle owners, and are not covered by the bill. As such, the bill impacts approximately 7,500 requests. Assuming the city charges the maximum fee of \$5.00 on each request, the total potential revenue to the city is \$37,500 (7,500 requests x \$5 each) . The City Attorney believes most of the 7,500 requests are from attorneys following up on claims, and insurance adjusters. This note assumes the number of requests remains constant over time. The city believes the fiscal impact of the weedy lot portion of the bill is minimal. The only expected savings to the city is the cost of certified postage. (Under current law the city must notify the owner each time there is a violation.) They believe the primary impact of this portion of the bill is procedural.

Denton: According to the Denton Town Manager, the town’s primary interest in the bill is the weedy lot provision. They believe the town will see some decrease in their postal expenses as a result of this provision. However, they expect the fiscal impact to be minimal. The town of Denton currently charges \$2.00 for an accident report. They now receive approximately 100 requests for accident reports. It is the town’s intention to continue to charge a \$2.00 fee.

Farmville: This community’s primary interest is also in the weedy lot portion of the bill. The Town Manager estimates that the weedy lot provision will save the community less than \$100 a year in postage. The change is primarily procedural. The Town Manager believes the community will continue to charge the current \$1.00 fee for uncertified copies of accident reports. As a result, no significant fiscal impact is expected.

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