

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1063

SHORT TITLE: Abortion Clinic Certification

SPONSOR(S): Representative Decker

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES	\$41,600				
POSITIONS:					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Facility Services				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	December 1, 1999 for new abortion clinics and by December 1, 2000 for existing abortion clinics				

BILL SUMMARY:

The proposed legislation requires all new and existing abortion clinics to meet the licensure requirements for ambulatory surgical facilities in order to obtain certification.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

A. Background

The Division of Facility Services in the Department of Health and Human Services is the agency responsible for certification and licensure of health and social care facilities including abortion clinics and ambulatory surgical facilities. The Division surveys the 18 existing abortion clinics every other year to complete the certification process. In addition, the Division also reviews plans and inspects the construction, expansion and renovation of health and social care facilities.

B. Assumptions

Timing: The proposed legislation requires all existing abortion clinics to meet the licensure requirements of ambulatory surgical facilities by December 1, 2000. This requirement will require the Division of Facility Services to recertify the 18 existing facilities in one year. In addition, staff from the Construction Section of the Division of Facility Services will have to review the plans and do an on-site inspection to determine what changes will be needed for the abortion clinics to meet ambulatory surgical licensure standards. Assuming the abortion clinics can make the necessary changes, Construction Section staff would make a follow-up inspection to ensure that the completed changes meet the standards. All of this work must be completed by December 1, 2000.

Cost Determination: In order to meet the December 1, 2000 deadline, the Division of Facility Services has estimated that it will take a nurse consultant eighty hours (including travel time) to survey and determine that all 18 existing abortion clinics meet ambulatory surgical licensure standards. The one-time cost of these additional surveys is \$3,200 (\$40 per hour). The Division has estimated that the required construction plan reviews and inspections to ensure that all 18 abortion clinics meet the ambulatory surgical licensure standards will require 960 hours of staff time. The one-time cost of the additional construction reviews and inspections is \$32,400 (\$40 per hour). The total one-time cost to implement the proposed legislation is \$41,600.

Use of Existing Staff: The Division of Facility Services is already understaffed and is having trouble meeting its existing responsibilities. In order to meet the time requirements of the proposed legislation, the Division will have to contract for the required services because existing staff cannot meet this requirement.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: none

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DATE: Friday, April 23, 1999



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