

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: HB1137 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Deaf School Changes

SPONSOR(S): Representative Arnold

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (x)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>	<u>FY 2005-06</u>
REVENUES	0	0	0	0	0
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$198,340	\$101,290	\$104,328	\$107,458	\$110,682
POSITIONS:	0	0	0	0	0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Department of Health and Human Services				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 2001				

BILL SUMMARY:

The Department of Health and Human Services shall close the Central School for the Deaf at Greensboro prior to the 2001-2002 school year. All funds previously allocated to the Central School for the Deaf at Greensboro shall be reallocated to the remaining schools for the deaf and shall be used for instructional purposes.

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study the organization and mission of the schools for the deaf through a private consultant working collaboratively with the directors of the two remaining schools. The Committee shall make a final report prior to the beginning of the 2002 Regular Session of the 2001 General Assembly.

General Statute 143B-146 will be rewritten to include:

- Director of each school may require residential school personnel to have a certain level of proficiency in sign language. Training will be made available to staff.
- The purpose for the schools is to educate students who are deaf for whom an Individualized Education Plan has been prepared and it is determined that a

residential setting is the least restrictive environment in which these students can receive an appropriate education.

- A student who is deaf may attend day classes offered at the school only when an Individualized Education Plan determines that the student's ability requires special education.

Regarding the ABC's program, the Department shall publish performance standards and make it available to the parent or legal guardian of each student at the schools. The Department shall issue a report on the performance of students at the schools for the deaf and compare student performance at the schools for the deaf to students in other educational settings.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

- The cost of the study will be incurred by the Department of Health and Human Services. It is estimated that the cost of the study will not exceed \$100,000. This study will occur in the first year of the biennium.
- Five sets of clothing will be provided to children whose parents request it. It is assumed that approximately 80% of the students' parents would request the clothing; therefore, approximately 270 students would receive five sets of clothing. Approximately \$300 per child is estimated for clothing, for a total of \$81,000.
- The Department already summarizes the ABC testing results and it is anticipated that providing this information to all parents and/or guardians of students would only entail the cost of copying the report and mailing it to parents. This cost of copying and mailing the document to parents would cost approximately \$340. This includes \$85 for copying a five-page document and the postage of \$255 to mail the information.
- It is assumed that there will be costs associated with training staff in the field of sign language. The bill states that Wilson Technical Community College and Western Piedmont Community College will offer courses annually in sign language. There is no additional cost to the Community College System since the course is already offered annually; however, there will be a cost to DHHS to pay for staff to take the course. This cost is approximately \$85. It is assumed that approximately 200 would enroll in the courses annually for an additional cost of \$17,000.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- The bill states that \$1M is needed to carry out activities; however, the analysis shows much less funding will be needed for all projected years.
- It is assumed that laundering of clothing would occur as it does currently and would cost no additional money.
- The cost of the study would occur in the first year of the projections only.
- The projected years assume a 3% rate of inflation.

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DATE: April 23, 2001



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