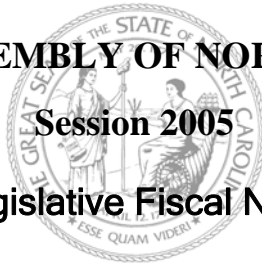


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 2002 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: UNC Students/ Criminal Background Checks.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Hunt

	FISCAL IMPACT				
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>
REVENUES:					
Justice	2,014,000	2,014,000	2,014,000	2,014,000	2,014,000
EXPENDITURES:					
Justice	2,182,232	1,558,237	1,558,237	1,558,237	1,558,237
UNC Gen. Admin.	681,000	681,000	681,000	681,000	681,000
POSITIONS cumulative:	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0
EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective for students first admitted for the Fall 2007 semester and thereafter.					

BILL SUMMARY: SB 2002 requires national and State criminal background checks on every person admitted to the 16 constituent institutions of the UNC system. The Department of Justice is authorized to provide a criminal background check to the universities and to charge each student a fee for this purpose. Prospective students may have their fingerprints information taken at any sheriff's office or local law enforcement agency that has the necessary equipment. Effective for students first admitted for the fall 2007 semester and thereafter.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The UNC university system enrolls about 53,000 students annually and, at a minimum, SB 2002 would require a national and state criminal background check on each enrollee. This estimate could be understated as it assumes that

background checks will be conducted only on students enrolled, not all students who apply (104,000) or are accepted (68,000).

NC Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation

The SBI would be allowed to charge \$38 for background checks it conducts for this purpose. However, from this amount, SBI must remit \$22 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the cost of conducting the national background check. The SBI indicates that it is currently operating at capacity. Any workload increases will require SBI to add staff positions and to renovate space to accommodate the additional staff, equipment, etc. For every 10,000 increase in background checks, the SBI would need to add one additional position. Assuming 53,000 enrollees, four Processing Assistant V and one Information Processing Technician positions would be needed. The total for staff, space renovation, equipment, supplies, FBI remittances, and other operating costs would be \$2,182,232 in FY 2006-07. In FY 2007-08 and subsequent years, the recurring costs would be \$1,558,237.

UNC General Administration

University system staff indicates that 0.5 to 1.0 fte (full-time equivalent) would be needed at each of the 16 institutions to carry out the requirements of SB 2002. The larger campuses will need to establish one position each and the remaining campuses would require one-half position, an estimated 14.0 positions would be needed at an annual cost of \$681,000.

Sheriffs' Departments/Local Law Enforcement Agencies

SB 2002 allows prospective students to have their fingerprints taken at any sheriff's or local law enforcement agencies. However, SB 2002 includes no provision to cover the costs incurred by sheriff's and law enforcement agencies to collect the fingerprint data and transmit it to the SBI office in Raleigh.

SOURCES OF DATA: NC Department of Justice; UNC General Administration

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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DATE: July 17, 2006



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