

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 1122

SHORT TITLE: Lift ESC Voter Sunset

SPONSOR(S): Senator Gulley

FISCAL IMPACT: Expenditures: Increase () Decrease ()
 Revenues: Increase () Decrease ()
 No Impact (X)
 No Estimate Available ()

FUNDS AFFECTED: General Fund () Highway Fund () Local Fund ()
 Other Fund (X)

BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1122, Lift ESC Voter Sunset, removes the July 1, 1996 sunset on conducting voter registration at Employment Security Commission (ESC) offices. Notwithstanding future changes in state or federal laws, removing this sunset would permanently establish ESC as an authorized state agency for conducting voter registration. The proposed bill also allows the agency to fund voter registration activities with either authorized federal funds it receives (Wagner-Peyser Act funds under current federal rules), or the ESC Special Administration Fund which collects penalties and interest receipts from certain employers under provisions of Unemployment Insurance law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1996

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Employment Security Commission

FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
EXPENDITURES					
RECURRING					
NON-RECURRING					
REVENUES/RECEIPTS	No General Fund Impact Expected				
RECURRING					
NON-RECURRING					

POSITIONS: N/A

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Federal law, in the form of the National Voter Registration Act -- P.L. 103-31 (NVRA), requires the state to conduct voter registration at agencies whose primary mission is the following: public assistance, services for the disabled, or driver licensing. The NVRA also requires each state to designate an additional agency to conduct voter registration other than those providing public assistance, services for the

disabled, or driver licensing. SB 1122 designates the Employment Security Commission as the state's "additional" agency.

ESC estimates the cost allocated for voter registration from the use of existing personnel, operations, and overhead to be approximately \$500,000 annually. That is, these salary, benefit, operating and administrative costs are generated by the pro-rated amount of time existing employees would devote to voter registration as part of their overall daily duties.

SOURCES OF DATA: Employment Security Commission, NCGA Bill Drafting and Research Divisions.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: If the State does not either remove or extend the current sunset, or designate another state agency to conduct voter registration, it will be out of compliance with federal voter registration law.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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DATE: June 10, 1996



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