

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 1281

SHORT TITLE: Increase Jail Fees

SPONSOR(S): Senator Bob Martin, others

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

FUND AFFECTED: General Fund () Highway Fund () Local Govt. (X)
 Other Funds ()

BILL SUMMARY: The act increases city and county jail fees from \$5 to \$25 and includes the fee in the computation of court costs regardless of the type of sentence imposed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1996

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: County Clerks of Court

FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>FY</u> 1996-97	<u>FY</u> 1997-98	<u>FY</u> 1998-99	<u>FY</u> 1999-00	2000-01	<u>FY</u>
REVENUES:						
LOCAL	\$3 mil.	\$3 mil.	\$3 mil.	\$3 mil.	\$3 mil.	
EXPENDITURES:						

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: From 1990 to 1993, the Clerks of Court across North Carolina collected approximately \$750,000 each year from the current \$5 jail fee. FY 1994-95 collections jumped to \$1.2 million. An official with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) attributes the increase to the lack of cell space in the state prisons keeping convicted inmates in the local jails for a longer period of time. It is anticipated that the State will react to complaints from local jails and begin paying jails to keep the state sentenced inmates as well as accepting more inmates into the prison system as more beds become available thus returning local jails to previous year levels. Based on \$750,000 per every \$5 increase in the jail fee, increasing the fee to \$25 will give local governments an additional \$3 million each year.

SOURCES OF DATA: Administrative Office of the Courts

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: HB 1108, the House passed 1996 budget bill,

includes \$40 per day per inmate payments to local jails for inmates with a state sentence who are awaiting transfer to prison.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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