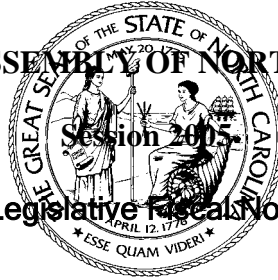


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1635 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Amend Displaced Homemaker Laws/Up Fund Fees.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Adams and Wainwright

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	(\$ in millions)				
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
REVENUES:					
General Fund					
No Impact to General Fund					
NC Fund for Displaced Homemakers	\$1.1	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$1.5
POSITIONS					
(cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: NC Council for Women					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 5 is effective October 1, 2005 and applies to all divorce filings on or after that date.					

BILL SUMMARY: The second edition of House Bill 1635 amends the laws pertaining to displaced homemakers and increases the amount of money flowing to the North Carolina Fund for Displaced Homemakers by increasing the filing fee for absolute divorce from \$90.00 to \$125.00.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The Administrative Office of the Courts provided staff with the following data on the number of divorce filings in North Carolina from 2002-2004.

Number of divorce filings in NC, 2002-04			
	2002	2003	2004
# of divorce filings in NC	43,861	42,623	42,547

Although the overall number of filings has decreased slightly during those years, this projection assumes the number of filings remains at the 2004 level. With the fee set at \$55 (a \$35 increase

over the current \$20), the price of filing for divorce will rise from \$90 to \$125. The table below shows the total projected revenue from this increase.

Projected increase in revenue					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010
# of divorce filings	31,910	42,547	42,547	42,547	42,547
Fee increase	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Total fee revenue	\$1,116,850	\$1,489,145	\$1,489,145	\$1,489,145	\$1,489,145

The 2005-06 number has been adjusted to account for the effective date of this legislation. The projection assumes the number of divorce filings is equally distributed throughout a given calendar year.

House Bill 1635 caps the amount of funds available for administrative costs to 10% of total funds collected. Pursuant to this requirement, \$111,685 would be available for administrative costs in 2005-06, and \$148,915 per year starting in 2006-07 continuing through 2009-10. This leaves a total of \$1.0 million for grants in 2005-06 and \$1.3 million per year from 2006-07 through 2009-2010.

Funds would be distributed to Displaced Homemaker Programs via a competitive grant process administered by the North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission. The following displaced homemaker programs received funding from the N.C. Council for Women in 2004-05:

- Women’s Resource Center of Alamance Co.
- Options to Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault, Inc. (Beaufort Co.)
- YWCA of Asheville (Buncombe Co.)
- Catawba Valley Community College
- REACH, Inc. (Task Force on Family Violence) (Cherokee Co.)
- Cleveland County Abuse Prevention Council, Inc. (Cleveland Co.)
- Southeastern Community College (Columbus Co.)
- Coastal Women’s Shelter (Craven Co.)
- Women’s Center of Fayetteville (Cumberland Co.)
- Outer Banks Hotline, Inc. (Dare Co.)
- Winston-Salem/Forsyth Council on the Status of Women (Forsyth Co.)
- NC Cooperative Extension Service of Gates County (Gates Co.)
- Women’s Resource Center of Greensboro (Guilford Co.)
- Roanoke-Chowan S.A.F.E. (Hertford Co.)
- REACH of Jackson County, Inc. (Jackson Co.)
- Harbor, Inc. (Johnston Co.)
- Haven in Lee County, Inc. (Lee Co.)
- REACH of Macon County, Inc. (Macon Co.)
- Mecklenburg County Women’s Commission (Mecklenburg Co.)
- Single Women in Mission, Inc. (Nash Co.)
- YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear (New Hanover Co.)
- The Women’s Center (Orange Co.)

Pamlico Community College (Pamlico Co.)
Albemarle Hopeline (Pasquotank Co.)
New Directions /Family Violence Program (Pitt)
Women Folk Unlimited, Inc. (Richmond)
Help, Inc. (Rockingham Co.)
Family Resources of Rutherford County, Inc. (Rutherford Co.)
U CARE, Inc. (Sampson Co.)
Swain/Qualla SAFE, Inc. (Swain Co.)
The Lighthouse of Wayne Co. (Wayne Co.)
SAFE, Inc. (Wilkes Co.)
Wesley Shelter, Inc. (Wilson Co.)
Women Work Network (Statewide)

Displaced homemaker funding commenced in 1993 as a result of a legislative initiative between the N.C. Council for Women and N.C. Women Work! (formerly known as the N.C. Displaced Homemaker Network). The current \$20 divorce filing fee for these programs resulted from a 1997 bill that became effective in 1998.

Services provided by displaced homemaker programs include job counseling programs specifically designed for displaced homemakers entering the job market; job training and placement services; health education and counseling services with respect to general preventative care; financial management services including but not limited to insurance, taxes, estate and probate matters, mortgages, and loans; and educational services including information on available secondary and post-secondary educational programs beneficial to displaced homemakers as well as information services regarding employment, education, health, public assistance, and unemployment assistance.

SOURCES OF DATA: North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, N.C. Council for Women

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices