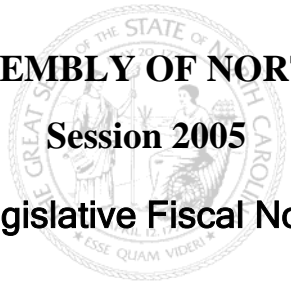


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 208 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Amend Occupational Therapy Laws/Fees.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Lucas

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<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:	No Impact – See Assumptions and Methodology				
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	When law.				

BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 208 amends the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Practice Act by creating statutory revisions and modifications to the provisions regulating the practice of occupational therapy. Under current law, "occupational therapy" is defined as a health care profession providing evaluation, treatment, and consultation to help individuals achieve a maximum level of independence by developing skills and activities interfered with by disease, emotional disorder, physical injury, the aging process, or impaired development. Occupational therapists use purposeful activities and specially designed orthotic and prosthetic devices to reduce specific impairments and to help individuals achieve independence at home and in the work place.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy was created in 1985. Since its inception, the Board has licensed more than 6,000 occupational therapists to practice in North Carolina. There are currently about 2,200 occupational therapists working in North Carolina.

The Board has not requested an increase in its statutory maximum fees since its creation in 1985. Although the Board expects it may have to increase its fees sometime in the next few years to keep pace with increasing costs or possibly expanding its services, they do not plan to do so in the next few years. For this reason, this bill is not expected to have any foreseeable fiscal impact.

The following is a schedule of increases to the statutory maximum fees for licensure of occupational therapists:

Schedule of Fees			
	Current	New	Increase
Initial application	\$ 10	\$ 25	\$ 15
Issuance of initial license	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 100
Renewal	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 50
Late renewal	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 50
Limited permit (replaces provisional license)	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 15

SOURCES OF DATA: North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices