

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 965 (First Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Control Foot and Mouth/Animal Disease Outbreaks

**SPONSOR(S):** Representatives Warwick and Hill

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes ( )</b>	<b>No (x)</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 2001-02</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2002-03</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2003-04</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2004-05</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2005-06</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	See Assumptions and Methodology				
<b>POSITIONS:</b>					
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services				
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	When the Act becomes law.				

**BILL SUMMARY:** House Bill 965 strengthens the State Veterinarian's authority to prevent and control an outbreak of foot and mouth disease and any other contagious animal diseases.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** This bill provides the State Veterinarian (within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) with the authority to develop and implement emergency procedures and measures determined necessary to prevent the outbreak of an infectious animal disease. These measures include permission to enter property in order to examine animals suspected of infection, permission to stop and inspect - without a warrant - individuals or motor vehicles moving into the State from foreign countries, in interstate commerce, and in intrastate commerce upon probable cause that the individual or vehicle is carrying an animal or article suspected of carrying an infectious animal disease. The bill further allows the State Veterinarian, in consult with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to quarantine areas in the State if there is determined to be an imminent threat of a contagious animal disease that could potentially spread very rapidly (previously the State Veterinarian could only quarantine

animals). The State Veterinarian may also prohibit the assembly of animals from shows, sales, exhibitions, etc, and require the Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission to develop a plan to address the movement and destruction of wildlife should an imminent threat of an infectious animal disease be determined. All of the new powers and authorities delegated to the State Veterinarian in this bill are permissive in nature and as such, do not **require** him to implement emergency measures and procedures. Any costs arising from immediate emergency measures and procedures that may be taken can be borne by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has made a number of appearances before legislative committees concerning foot and mouth disease. On those occasions, the Department has provided members with a list of possible future (FY 01-03 biennium) appropriations to related to the disease. It is anticipated that discussions will continue to take place on these appropriations and be referred to the appropriate legislative committee for consideration.

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910**

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**DATE:** April 3, 2001



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