

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 147 < 1st Edition >

SHORT TITLE: Traffic Law Enforcement Statistics

SPONSOR(S): Senator Ballance, et al.

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>	<u>FY 2005-06</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Nonrecurring	\$246,505	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Recurring	\$182,266	\$330,587	\$304,211	\$312,006	\$320,034
TOTAL	\$428,771	\$330,587	\$304,211	\$312,006	\$320,034
POSITIONS:	6				
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation Division of Criminal Information and Information Technology Division.					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective January 1, 2002, and applies to law enforcement actions occurring on or after that date.					

BILL SUMMARY:

This bill amends G.S. 114-10(2a) by requiring the Division of Criminal Statistics within the Department of Justice to extend its data collection and analysis requirements to traffic stops made by local law enforcement officers employed by counties and certain municipalities. Specifically, this would include: law enforcement officers employed by county sheriffs or county police departments; law enforcement officers employed by police departments in municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more persons; and law enforcement officers employed by police departments in municipalities employing five or more full-time sworn officers for every 1,000 in population.

Additionally, the proposed bill shall require the Division to supply forms necessary for collecting the information and to establish a procedure and schedule for local law enforcement agencies to report.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Currently, the State Bureau of Investigation, Division of Criminal Information (DCI) collects and maintains statistics on traffic enforcement stops by State law enforcement officers. The proposed bill extends DCI's data collection and analysis to local law enforcement agencies, which includes approximately 252 agencies.

Although these local agencies have the authority to stop vehicles on public roads and actually do so, it is not known at this time the number of stops they actually make. Therefore, DCI estimates the number of stops they make based on several telephone inquiries to local police departments. After ascertaining the total number of traffic stops for each of the interviewed agencies, DCI calculated the rate of traffic stops per 1,000 persons in their respective population. The rates were averaged to 200 traffic stops per 1000 person for all agencies. (**Note:** This rate is an average and will be significantly higher or lower depending upon jurisdiction.) Again, using the criterion for agency participation in SB 147 this would generate **an additional 1,386,715 traffic reports annually.**

Additional assumptions and associated fiscal impact are noted below.

Department of Justice

Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation, Division of Criminal Information

This bill allows the agencies to send the traffic reports to DCI via electronic transmission or facsimile. Based on estimates from DCI, the number of traffic reports entered into the system will be approximately 115,560 reports monthly. Fiscal Research estimates that 75% of the agencies will submit their traffic reports electronically, while the other 25% will rely on paper submission.

The analysis assumes that ALL 75% of the agencies that have electronic capabilities will submit their reports electronically. However, this bill does not require that they do so; therefore the costs projected in this note can be altered significantly if agencies choose paper submissions.

The following cost projections relate to program support costs:

- (1) \$50,063 for a Statewide Program Manager to coordinate all management aspects of the program, assign passwords, audit the system, and act as a liaison between DCI and the participating agencies;
- (2) \$100,722 for 3 DCI Data Entry position. The data will be entered into the system at a maximum rate of 346,679 (.25 * 1,386,715) reports annually as estimated by DCI. Fiscal Research estimates this is a reasonable estimate of personnel requirements. Assuming data entry of 346,679 will be entered by DCI, the Fiscal Research Division estimates that the workload of the support staff would increase by 5,778 hours annually (346,679 reports * 1 min.= 346,679 minutes / 60 min/hr = 5,778 hours).

This estimate assumes 1 minute per entry. This increased workload equates to 3 office assistants;

- (3) DCI projects the need for a full-time trainer to review the program and each of the data fields to ensure that accurate data entry and submission is achieved. However, Fiscal Research has not included costs for this position in its estimates. It is assumed that these responsibilities can be carried out by the Statewide Program Manager;
- (4) \$24,505 for equipment costs. Additional equipment will be required to support the program and the new personnel;
- (5) \$29,600 for the printing, shipping, and storage of 2.5 million forms. SB147 states that "The Division shall print and supply all forms necessary for the collection of this data." Therefore, DCI estimates that an initial order of 2,000,000 forms (based on annual average traffic stops) will be required to roll out the program;
- (6) \$10,000 in recurring training costs. This estimate includes developing and distributing the manuals, costs for travel, training materials for the users and meeting space when state or municipal space is not available.

Department of Justice, Information Technology Division

The following cost projections are information technology support costs:

- (1) \$131,000 in nonrecurring contractual costs for an application specialist (\$85/hr for 500 hours), one technical writer (\$65/hr for 500 hours), one project manager \$100/hr for 500 hours), and \$6,000 for a specialist to re-configure the web server application;
- (2) \$63,000 in nonrecurring hardware and software requirements to add the next 50 agencies;
- (3) \$67,886 to support Applications and Operation functions (Grade 78 at \$56,744, plus benefits) for year 1 only;
- (4) \$4,800 in recurring costs for software maintenance contract
- (5) \$28,000 in nonrecurring hardware and software requirements to support the remaining 200 agencies;
- (6) \$101,459 in recurring personnel cost to maintain the system (1 FTE at \$56,744 per year, plus benefits and 1 FTE at \$27,078 per year, plus benefits);
- (7) \$48,000 nonrecurring for Disaster Recovery hardware costs. A disaster recovery plan is required for all information systems by the Information Recovery Management Commission.

NOTE: Personnel costs are based on actual 2000-01 salaries. A 3% per year inflationary rate has been added to these 2000-01 costs to determine the five-year recurring personnel costs estimated in the Fiscal Impact Table on Page 1. Additionally, benefits were included for each position (8.01% for retirement, 7.65% for social security, and \$2,255.76 for health benefits).

OTHER ASSUMPTIONS

Given the number of stops DCI estimates, Fiscal Research projects that the total amount of enforcement officer time required to record the data is equivalent to 115,560 hours (1,386,715* 5 min/stop = 6,933,575 minutes / 60 min/hr = 115,560 hours). This is equivalent to 55 officers. Fiscal Research estimates that local agencies can perform the requirements of the bill without an additional appropriation for new positions. However, if they were to do so, four-tenths of 1% of the total man-hours would be diverted from their regular enforcement activity.

Department of Justice	Jan-June 2002	July ³ -June 2003	July-June 2004	July-June 2005	July-June 2006
Information Technology Div.					

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

DCI was allocated \$91,000 for the current fiscal year for the Traffic Law Enforcement Statistics Program and other similar programs. These funds may be used toward the cost of this proposed bill if funds are exempted from current freeze.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910

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