

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 595 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Study High-Speed Internet/Underserved Cities.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Jones, Faison, and K. Alexander

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>
REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES	\$13,634 *	\$26,768*	-	-	-
<i>(*Note: These are the minimum costs calculated. See "Assumptions & Methodology" for the range of costs.)</i>					
POSITIONS (cumulative):	-	-	-	-	-
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: General Assembly					
EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.					

BILL SUMMARY:

The legislation creates a 16-member joint legislative study Committee with eight members designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and eight members designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Both the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate will each designate one of their eight members as Cochairs of the study Committee. The issue to be examined is the availability of high-speed Internet access in low-wealth areas of the state having a population of 100,000 or more (according to the most recent federal decennial census). The Committee is to submit its final report to the 2011 Session of the General Assembly, and may submit interim reports as it deems necessary. The Committee will terminate upon the filing of its final report or upon the convening of the 2011 General Assembly, whichever comes first.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The legislation is not specific in regard to the number of meetings the Committee may convene or the selection of appointees, i.e. whether they should be legislators or non-legislators. This fiscal note has been calculated under the assumption that all appointees shall be legislators.

Additionally, it is not possible to determine the schedule this Committee will adopt. There is the potential to convene 18 monthly meetings between July 2009 and January 2011, *if* the 2009 Session adjourns mid to late July. However, this time span allows for considerable flexibility in scheduling. The Committee could elect to meet monthly during the 18-month period if the volume of work warranted that frequency, or to meet every other month for a total of 9 meetings. Additionally, the schedule could suggest a combination of one-day and two-day meetings with meetings occurring as few as 9 or as many as 18 times during the interim.

These meetings would be spread over the next two fiscal years. If the Committee meets the 9 times, there would be 6 meetings in FY 2009-10 and 3 in FY 2010-11. If the Committee chooses to meet the maximum of 18 times, 12 meetings would occur in FY 2009-10 and 6 in FY 2010-11.

Therefore, in the absence of expressed direction, this estimate assumes:

- 1) the 16 appointees of the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore will be legislators;
- 2) the 2009 Session will adjourn mid to late July;
- 3) the Committee will adopt a one-day meeting schedule with a minimum of 9 meetings (every other month), but not more than 18 meetings during the interims; and
- 4) the Committee’s meetings will be spread between FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11.

On this basis, the estimated minimum cost of one-day meetings scheduled 9 times during the interim is \$40,902, and the maximum cost of 18 meetings is \$80,304 (see chart below). The minimum and maximum costs for FY 2009-10 would be \$13,634 and \$26,768, while the minimum and maximum costs for FY 2010-11 would be \$27,268 and \$53,536.

Study Committee Budget Estimate		Minimum Cost 9 MEETINGS	Maximum Cost 18 MEETINGS
Legislative Members Subsistence		\$22,464.00	\$44,928.00
\$104.00	Legislative Subsistence		
X 16	Number of Legislative members		
X 1.5	Half of Members using 2 Days of Subsistence		
Legislative Members Travel Expenses		\$9,792.00	\$19,584.00
\$68.00	Round Trip Reimbursement		
	<i>230 miles is an Average per Member based on the Total Certified Round Trip Mileage</i>		
X 16	Number of Legislative Members		
Clerical Staff		\$7,146.00	\$14,292.00
\$794.00	Average Salary with Benefits: 5 day work wk.		
	<i>Average Wkly Wages for LA, CAI, CAII & CAIII + Fringes</i>		
Professional Staff		\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage and Telephone Expenses		\$250.00	\$250.00
Supplies		\$250.00	\$250.00
Copying and Printing		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total		\$40,902.00	\$80,304.00

Budget Estimate template source: Office of the State Controller

SOURCES OF DATA: General Assembly, Office of the State Controller

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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