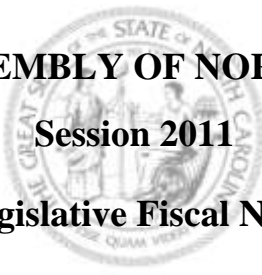


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2011

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 670 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Revise Membership/Hearing Aid Fitters Board.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Hartsell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>	<u>FY 2014-15</u>	<u>FY 2015-16</u>
REVENUES					
NC State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board	(\$53,000)	(\$54,875)	(\$56,900)	(\$58,950)	(\$60,975)
EXPENDITURES					
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board					
EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.					

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 670 amends GS 93D-3 to delete the requirement that one member of the board be an audiologist appointed from a list of nominees from the NC Speech and Hearing Association, and it requires that four members of the board be actively engaged in fitting and selling hearing aids and be licensed under GS Chapter 93D. The bill specifies that the terms of the two members on the board who are audiologists expire on the date the bill becomes law.

Senate Bill 670 amends GS 93D-2 to allow a person with a license under Article 22 of GS Chapter 90 and a doctoral degree in audiology to fit or sell hearing aids. It provides the same authorization to an apprentice working under such licensee (or those licensed by the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board) who is registered in accordance with GS 93D-9. The bill amends GS 93D-3(c)(14) to authorize the Board to set a fee of \$150 a year for the registration of persons not licensed under GS Chapter 93D providing supervision of apprentices registered under

GS 93D-9. The bill amends GS 93D-3(a) to require one member of the Board be a person with hearing loss.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

According to the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board, approximately 200 of their 560 members possess a doctoral degree in audiology (AuD) and licensure in speech and language pathology or audiology. Under Senate Bill 670, these 200 members would no longer need to be licensed by the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board to fit or sell hearing aids.

If all 200 current members who possess a doctoral degree in audiology (AuD) and licensure in speech and language pathology or audiology chose not to be licensed by the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board, the Board's revenue would decrease by \$53,000 for FY11-12. The revenue figure is derived by multiplying the \$250.00 license renewal fee plus the \$15.00 continuing education reporting fee by the 200 current members who could possibly not renew their license. This amount has been grown by the North Carolina Health Services Employment growth rate.

SOURCES OF DATA: North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board; Moody's Economy.com

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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DATE: May 17, 2011



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