



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2021

Legislative Fiscal Note

Short Title: Purchase Permit Req'd/Long Gun.
Bill Number: House Bill 623 (First Edition)
Sponsor(s): Representatives von Haefen, Richardson, Logan, and Majeed

SUMMARY TABLE

FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B.623, V.1

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
State Impact					
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Less Expenditures</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General Fund Impact	No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section				

NET STATE IMPACT

No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section

Local Impact

Local Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Less Local Expenditures</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NET LOCAL IMPACT

No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

This bill would add long guns (defined as a shotgun or rifle not considered an antique firearm) to the State's existing pistol purchase permit system. This would result in an unknown amount of increased workload to both the various Sheriffs' Offices across the State and to the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI). There would also be an unknown amount of increased revenue for the Sheriffs' Offices from the new \$5 fee. The NC Sheriffs' Association has expressed concern that the existing fee may be insufficient.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Currently, Article 52A requires individuals to acquire a permit to purchase a handgun and requires the Sheriff to charge a \$5 fee to process these applications. As part of the application, the Sheriff's Office conducts a name-based criminal history records check. Individuals wishing to purchase other firearms are not currently required by Article 52A to acquire a purchase permit, although federal

law does require the seller to conduct a federal criminal background check. This bill would apply the current handgun purchase permit laws and accompanying \$5 fee to “long guns,” which it defines as a shotgun or rifle not considered an antique firearm.

The NC Sheriffs’ Association asserts that the bill will have an impact on sheriffs because long guns will be added to the list of weapons that require a purchase permit. Because these fees remain with the Sheriff’s Office that processes the permit, there will be no impact to State revenue from this bill. Sheriffs’ Offices will likely see increased revenue from the increased number of fees collected.

However, the Sheriffs may require additional personnel to meet the increased demand for permits, and the NC Sheriffs’ Association has expressed concern about the \$5 permit fee being inadequate to address the actual costs of the permit requirements. The increased workload may add additional staffing and workload pressures on the Sheriffs’ Offices as a result. The scope of this impact cannot be determined due to the unknown number of permits that will be sought under this new system.

SBI is unable to estimate the increased number of permits that may be sought because of the changes in this bill. Based on their analysis of the available existing data, it is likely that the bill will result in hundreds of thousands of new permits and accompanying background checks. This may have an impact on the SBI’s workload in managing the State’s background check system.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

DATA SOURCES

NC SHERIFF’S ASSOCIATION, SBI

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS

This document is an official fiscal analysis prepared pursuant to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and rules adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions on this analysis should be directed to the Fiscal Research Division at (919) 733-4910.

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Signed copy located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices