



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2021

Legislative Fiscal Note

Short Title: Juvenile Court Mental Health Assessments.
Bill Number: House Bill 615 (First Edition)
Sponsor(s): Representative Davis

SUMMARY TABLE

FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B.615, 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>
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-
General Fund Impact	No Fiscal Impact				
NET LOCAL IMPACT	No Fiscal Impact				

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

This bill would direct appropriate mental health assessments for juveniles who have been adjudicated as delinquent. Fiscal Research finds that the changes in the bill can be addressed within existing resources, and the bill would have no fiscal impact.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

This bill would provide for mental health assessments, as appropriate, for juveniles who have been adjudicated as delinquent. The changes in the bill would conform the statute to current practices and remove statutory language that is no longer consistent with existing institutions and practices.

Section 1.(a) would amend G.S. 7B-1501 by adding a definition for severe emotional disturbance. The bill would not widen the scope of existing assessments provided to juveniles at any point in the juvenile justice process. As a result, Fiscal Research finds that this section of the bill would have no fiscal impact.

Section 1.(b) would modify G.S. 7B-2502 to specify that an adjudicated delinquent, with a suspected mental illness or developmental disability must receive a comprehensive clinical or mental health assessment, unless the court finds that appropriate assessments have already occurred, within 45 days of the adjudication hearing. The changes in this section would reduce inefficiencies in the flow of juvenile justice court processes.

This section would further direct that if such an assessment were ordered by the court, the court must review the assessment. If the juvenile were found developmentally disabled by the court and

if the court found these disabilities contributed to the delinquency, the section would direct the court to order a care review team be established by the Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO) to develop and recommend a plan of appropriate services for the delinquent juvenile within 30 days of the court date convening the care review team. Mental health assessment services are already available and performed through contracts between Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) and local mental health providers or at Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers. Fiscal Research finds that the convening of a local care review team is consistent with existing juvenile justice practice. Because Section 1.(b) would not modify current practice, Fiscal Research does not anticipate any fiscal impact from this section of the proposed bill.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

DATA SOURCES

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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