

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 564

**SHORT TITLE:** Supervising Dental Hygienists

**SPONSOR(S):** Rep. Charlotte Gardner

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Yes ( )      No ( )      No Estimate Available (x)

FY 1997-98   FY 1998-99   FY 1999-00   FY 2000-01   FY 2001-02

**REVENUES**

**EXPENDITURES**

**POSITIONS:**

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &**

**PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Department of Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** "...when it becomes law...."

**BILL SUMMARY:** *TO ALLOW DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO PERFORM ACTS WITHOUT THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST AND TO ALLOW DENTISTS TO EMPLOY MORE THAN TWO DENTAL HYGIENISTS AT ONE TIME.* Amends GS 90-221 to provide that a dental hygienist is acting under the supervision of a dentist, even if the dentist is not physically present, if the hygienist is performing acts pursuant to a dentist's order, control and approval. Deletes prohibition in GS 90-233 against a dentist in private practice employing more than two dental hygienists at one time. Makes other technical changes.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** The "no estimate available" is determined for this fiscal note because the bill would allow [p.2, lines 31 - 34] dentist "...using professional discretion.." to choose "...**not** [*analyst's emphasis*] to be physically present.."

The dentist would still be exercising supervision under one of two conditions set out on page 2, at line 25ff.

However, it is not possible to estimate, reliably, the number of times during a dental encounter, the dentist would elect to use professional discretion, and elect not to be present physically. Without a reliable estimate, therefore, any overall increases in charges for a dental encounter, using standard UCR's (Usual, Customary, and Reasonable Charges) set by Medicaid or other payers for allowable charges for dental procedures, could not be estimated.

In addition the Division of Medical Assistance of the Department of Human Resources has reviewed this bill and concludes there is no measurable fiscal impact.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** none

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910**

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**APPROVED BY:** L. Carol Shaw

**DATE:** April 16, 1997



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