

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 626

**SHORT TITLE:** Office of Women's Health

**SPONSOR(S):** Senators Forrester; Cochrane, Lucas, Perdue and Winner

**FISCAL IMPACT**

	Yes ( )	No (x) *	No Estimate Available ( )		
	<u>FY 1997-98</u>	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES *</b>	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**POSITIONS:** none

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &**

**PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources  
Division of Maternal and Child Health  
Women's Health Section

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 1997

*\* The bill requires the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources to use available funds to implement this act; therefore there is no impact on the General Fund (See section on Assumptions and Methodology below).*

**BILL SUMMARY:** *TO ESTABLISH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES THE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH.* Adds Part 8 to GS Chapter 130A, Art. 5, as title indicates. Primary goal of office is to prevent disease and improve quality of life for women. Office is required to study feasibility of early intervention services for women with HIV, outreach, treatment, and follow-up services for women at high risk for sexually transmitted diseases; and development and expansion of emergency and transitional shelter programs for victims of domestic violence. Department of Environment, Health, & Natural Resources must report to 1998 General Assembly on implementation of office, including recommendations for legislation. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Daily Bulletin*, Institute of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill, Volume 1997, Number 36, April 1, 1997.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

To implement the requirements of this act, the department proposes to rename the Women’s Health Section, located in the Division of Maternal and Child Health, the Office of Women’s Health.

The Women’s Health Section is currently responsible for a wide range of strategic planing, policy analysis, public awareness and service delivery activities aimed at promoting and improving women’s health, through health education, prevention and treatment programs. By renaming the section the Office of Women’s Health, the department plans to carry out the requirements of Senate Bill 626 by using existing financial and personnel resources, and by drawing on the resources of other agencies with expertise in women’s health issues through better coordination of efforts.

The current authorized budget for the 1996-97 fiscal year for the Women’s Health Section is approximately \$28.3 million, of which \$14.5 million is from General Fund appropriations. Staff for the section includes 36 full-time equivalent positions. Although the department does not need additional staff or operating funds to implement this act, they do anticipate spending approximately \$60,000 during the 1997-98 fiscal year to facilitate the planning and policy development initiatives required. However, since the bill requires the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources to use available funds to implement this act there will be no impact on the General Fund.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** none

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

**733-4910**

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**DATE:** May 26, 1997



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