

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

REVISED

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1141 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: DOA/Examine Ownership of State Land.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Allen and Blackwood

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>
REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES	Up to \$87,880	-	-	-	-
POSITIONS (cumulative):	4	-	-	-	-
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Administration					
EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.					

BILL SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Administration’s State Property Office to study issues related to the ownership of public land in the state. In conducting its study, the Department of Administration shall specify acreage and percentages of land that must be determined. This bill further requires the Department to submit a report of its findings, listed by county, to the House and Senate Environment committees by May 1, 2010.

Source: Bill Digest H.B. 1141 (04/06/0200)

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Administration’s State Property Office does not currently track the information required by this bill. In order to assemble and calculate the information required, the Department of Administration estimates that it will need four full-time, time-limited staff members for six months. The total cost for these four time-limited positions at an annual cost of \$43,940 each would be \$87,880 for the six-month period (\$43,940 * 4 positions * .5 year = \$87,880). The State Property Office would need to slightly amend its current software (ARC Map and Microsoft Office

Excel) in order to fulfill the requirements of this bill; these software costs would, however, be negligible.

However, there are several organizations that collect similar information. By using the resources described below, the Department of Administration could significantly reduce the staff time and costs needed to compile the information required by HB 1141

In 2007, the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) compiled a comprehensive spreadsheet for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that contained all state-, federal-, local-, and private-owned land by county. The cost to update the information in this spreadsheet for FY 2008-09 would be approximately \$1,600. Further, CGIA staff provided additional information on existing source datasets that track the extent of publicly-owned lands in North Carolina:

Federal Land

- *Data set source:* The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) keeps track of federal land ownership by periodically soliciting geospatial data updates from federal agencies.
- *Completeness:* The NCNHP collection includes national parks, national forests, military installations, and other substantial land parcels owned by federal agencies. There may be small military owned parcels that are not evident outside of the military and not be in the collection.
- *Currency:* The State Property Office recently verified the collection of federal lands with federal sources.
- *Quality:* The precision of the boundaries varies by the source of the update, with less precision likely in remote, wooded areas. Boundaries of military installations have changed over time, but tend to be included in data updates.

North Carolina Land

- *Data set source:* The State Property Office maintains a geospatial dataset for state owned land, with ongoing updates.
- *Completeness:* The dataset addresses parcels owned by the state but does not include transportation right of ways.
- *Currency:* The dataset is complete with the exception of recent transactions for which details have not reached the mapping staff.
- *Quality:* The precision of the boundaries varies; older boundaries digitized many years ago without the benefit of high resolution aerial imagery or ancillary mapping data are less precise. Property exchange between NC DOT and NC Department of Corrections on adjacent complexes may have occurred recently and not yet have been integrated into the dataset.
- *Confidence:* There is high confidence based on the regular maintenance and improved precision over time as source materials have improved.

County and Municipal Land

- *Data set source:* Ninety-nine (99) of the state's counties have digital parcel datasets. Counties maintain land records and digital parcel data within incorporated areas.
- *Completeness:* County datasets are maintained to support the property valuation process; datasets will vary on categorizing tax exempt properties, and delineation of discrete adjacent tax-exempt properties.
- *Currency:* County datasets will be very current due to the need to support the valuation process.
- *Quality:* The precision of boundaries will be comparatively high.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Administration; North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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