

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 919 (Second Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Workplace Safety Tax Credits.-AB

**SPONSOR(S):** Representatives Goodwin and McHenry

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes (X)</b>	<b>No ( )</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 2004-05</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2005-06</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2006-07</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2007-08</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2008-09</u></b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
General Fund	\$1,100,000				
<b>POSITIONS:</b>					
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b> Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> July 1, 2004.					

**BILL SUMMARY:**

The bill establishes a grant program that helps defray costs incurred by eligible businesses when implementing voluntary safety efforts. It also directs the Department of Labor to establish a pilot program that provides non-English language safety training to workers in the construction industry. Participating construction companies that have at least 75% of their Spanish-speaking employees attend the safety course are to receive a certificate, good for three years, providing that, if there is a worker injury, any civil penalty considered by the Department of Labor in connection with the injury is to be reduced by at least half or waived, unless the injury was due to reckless or intentional misconduct.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

The bill appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Labor in FY 04-05 to provide grants to eligible employers for up to 100% of the amount of eligible workplace safety expenditures. To be eligible, an employer must be free of certain Occupational Safety and Health Act and Mine Safety and Health Act violations for three years.

The bill also appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Labor in FY 04-05 to establish a pilot program that provides non-English language safety training in Spanish to workers in the construction industry. The pilot is to include training of up to three hours length at least once a month in each of the five counties in the state with the highest per capita number of Spanish-speaking construction worker deaths in 2003. This pilot program expires June 30, 2005.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Department of Labor

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

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**DATE:** June 22, 2004

**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**