

FISCAL NOTE

HB 1668 - SB 1723

March 9, 1999

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Better Enforcement Leads to Safety (BELTS) Act* which specifies that no person 18 years of age or younger shall operate a motor vehicle unless such person and all passengers 4 years of age or older are restrained by safety belts at all times. Violation of this provision is a class C misdemeanor. A person charged with a violation may submit a fine of \$50 in lieu of an appearance in court. Authorizes law enforcement officers to issue a citation by observing this violation and does not require the officer stop the vehicle on a separate violation as is required in current law.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Revenues - Exceeds \$100,000 - Earmarked for
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Increase Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant
Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes:

- There are approximately 189,000 drivers in Tennessee who are 18 years of age or younger.
- In excess of 2,000 citations will be issued annually with violators paying a \$50 fine in lieu of a court appearance. This assumes at least one percent of the total drivers 18 years or younger will be issued a citation.
- The provisions of this bill will be enforced by local law enforcement officers as well as highway patrolmen.
- Other citations will be issued on violators from the provisions in the bill which provides that officers may stop such vehicles by observing the violation outlined in this bill. Such violators could include persons exceeding 18 years of age which would not have been cited in the absence of this bill. This is estimated to result in a not significant increase in state and local revenues from citations issued and a not significant increase in local government expenditures for any additional incarcerations.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



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James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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