

FISCAL NOTE

HB 474 - SB 774

March 5, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Provides procedures for a parent to surrender an infant who is 72 hours old or less to an emergency medical services provider who will then deliver the infant to a local child-placing agency.
- Eliminates criminal liability for the parent under the contributing to the dependency of a minor (Class A misdemeanor) or under the child abuse and neglect provision (Class D felony).
- Requires the Departments of Health and Children's Services to establish, promote, and maintain a public awareness campaign regarding infant abandonment. The Department of Education and local education agencies will incorporate the information into health education curriculum.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures - \$9,300/Incarceration*

Increase State Expenditures - \$90,000

Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Estimate assumes:

- one case per year will avoid prosecution for a Class D felony offense;
- a public awareness campaign will cost \$90,000;
- local government impact depends upon the number of persons that will no longer be prosecuted of a Class A misdemeanor that would have been applicable in the absence of this bill.

*Section 9-4-210, TCA, requires that: *For any law enacted after July 1, 1986, which results in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state facilities, there shall be appropriated from recurring revenues the estimated operating cost of such law. The amount appropriated for operating cost, in current dollars, shall be based upon the highest cost of the next 10 years, beginning with the year the additional sentence to be served impacts the correctional facilities population.*

CERTIFICATION:

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



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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