# FISCAL NOTE

# HB 1919 - SB 1892

March 5, 2001

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes an observation and assessment center for rural West Tennessee to provide assessment of children adjudicated in juvenile court and awaiting disposition on their case. The bill also provides the following regarding compulsory school attendance:

- Allows the parents of a child or a child to request from the local board of education a waiver from the compulsory school attendance laws. The request shall provide reasons for the request and a plan for employment or future education of the child.
- Allows each superintendent and judge having juvenile jurisdiction in a county to create a voluntary truancy review board. The truancy review board shall be provided staff to assist the board in performing their responsibilities regarding noncompliance with compulsory school attendance.
- In school systems establishing a truancy review board, the principal of a school or his/her designee shall notify the parent or guardian when a child has two or more unexcused absences within a school year.
- Upon referral regarding a student with more than three unexcused absences, the attendance teacher or officer shall notify the parent or guardian and the student to meet with the Truancy Review Board and enter into an agreement to comply with the school attendance laws. If the parent or guardian and student decline to meet, a referral for truancy will be made to the juvenile court.
- The penalty is increased from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor for any parent, guardian, or other person who has control of a child and who violates the compulsory school attendance laws.
- Local boards of education may establish a truancy school for children who are truant or disorderly or disruptive.
- The definition of an unruly child is broadened to include a child who has had three or more unexcused absences from school.

## ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - $831,600(Reflected in Governor's 2001-02 Budget)**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - Exceeds $100,000**
**Increase Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant**

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The estimate is based upon the following:

- The establishment of an observation and assessment center will require a daily rate of $143 for a facility with a 16-bed capacity.
- An increase in local government expenditures for those that choose to establish truancy review boards to provide notifications to parents and staffing of the board.
- The additional children adjudicated unruly will require additional juvenile court services.
- Additional cost for confinement in jail and additional revenues from fines imposed and collected from parents and guardians for the increased penalty for noncompliance with the compulsory school attendance laws.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## 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