

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 593

March 2, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits students from using cell phones or personal digital assistants (PDAs) devices for any reason other than a “bona fide emergency” while on school property. Bona fide emergencies may include calls or other form of electronic communication to the student’s custodial parent or parents. Makes violation by students 18 years of age or younger a delinquent act. Makes violation by students 18 years of age or older a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a \$25 fine or not more than 25 hours of community service.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue – Not Significant
Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant
Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.
- Some local education agencies may already have policies prohibiting cell phone or PDA usage in their schools. It is estimated that in most situations, LEAs will not pursue a court case against a student but will mandate some other form of discipline such as seizure of the device.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

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