

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1743 - SB 1590

March 27, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires court clerks to forward to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) a copy of any judgment against a person convicted of an animal abuse offense within 45 days of judgment. Defines an animal abuse offense as aggravated animal cruelty, animal fighting, or bestiality. Requires the TBI to maintain the public Tennessee Animal Abuser Registry on its website. Requires the registry to contain specified information. Requires registered offenders to notify the TBI within 48 hours of their primary or secondary residence address change. Requires abusers from other states or jurisdictions to notify the TBI within 48 hours of establishing residency, employment or student status in Tennessee. Requires a \$50 abuser registration fee to be levied as court costs. Requires the TBI to remove from the registry any information pertaining to a person, who has not been convicted of an animal abuse offense for 10 years from the person's most recent conviction. Classifies as a Class E felony, punishable by fine only, a knowing violation including providing false information to the TBI, failure to timely disclose required information to the TBI, and failure to pay the initial registration fee or annual administration costs. Requires the TBI to remove all data relating to an abuser upon notice of the abuser's death.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$45,000/One-Time
\$8,000/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- According to the TBI, the Bureau will incur a one-time increase in expenditures of \$45,000 to design, program, and pay for the front-end application for the registry database. Such registry database will require the services of a contracted vendor.
- According to the TBI, the Bureau will contract with NIC, the state portal vendor, to host the Animal Abuser Registry. The result is a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$8,000.
- According to the Department of Correction, there were no admissions for aggravated cruelty of animals or bestiality during the past 10 years. As a result, any increase in state and local fee revenue as a result of court cost collections will not be significant.
- Based on the Fiscal Review Committee's 2008 study of incarceration costs and fines, collection of fines for felony offenders is negligible. There will not be a significant increase in state revenue as a result.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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