

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1676 – SB 1846

February 9, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Exempts any out-of-state resident operating a motorcycle in Tennessee from wearing a crash helmet when the individual's motorcycle is registered in another state that does not require persons 21 years of age and older to wear crash helmets.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- All states contiguous with Tennessee, except Kentucky and Arkansas, have helmet laws applying to all operators and passengers. Kentucky and Arkansas motorcyclists are exempt from wearing a helmet if they are 21 years of age or older.
- According to the Department of Safety, there are approximately 50 convictions for violations of the helmet law per year with an average fine of \$15. Some of these violations for non-residents will be eliminated by the provisions of the bill but there could be an increase in some Tennessee riders attempting to ride without a helmet. The net impact on revenue and expenditures is estimated to be not significant.
- Any impact to local government will be similar to that of the state.
- According to the Department of Finance and Administration, very few individuals who are eligible to participate in the state sponsored public sector plans would be authorized to operate a motorcycle without a helmet under the provisions of the bill.
- According to the Bureau of TennCare, it is unlikely that any out-of-state resident injured in Tennessee would become a TennCare enrollee due to head injuries sustained due to the lack of a helmet. In rare instances, an individual could become Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit eligible and would then become a TennCare enrollee.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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