

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1851 - HB 1887

March 8, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires any parent or caretaker applying for and receiving assistance through the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program, on or after July 1, 2014, to receive a temporary assistance grant and provide documented evidence, in person, to the Department of Human Services (DHS) that he or she has successfully completed one of the five mandated requirements to establish the parent or caretaker's involvement in the child's academic progress. Upon completion of one of the requirements, the parent or caretaker shall receive an increase in subsequent temporary assistance payments. Authorizes DHS to define by rule what is considered documented evidence. Failure for the parent or caretaker to comply with the requirements will result in assistance being limited to a child only grant until compliance occurs.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – Current Department of Human Services resources will have to be shifted from existing projects to make the necessary systems changes to comply with the provisions of the bill.

Assumptions:

- According to DHS, there will be necessary programming and systems changes to the ACCENT program to link the reduction in assistance and later the restoration in assistance to the documented evidence. Systems changes will also have to be made to stop payment to an assistance unit who did not comply with the required documentation.
- The department estimates the following 600 programming hours will be necessary: develop project note (90 hours); screen changes (120 hours); coding/design (90 hours); database design and expansion (120 hours); client notices (60 hours); and user acceptance test (120 hours).
- According to DHS and the Office for Information Resources (OIR), current DHS programmers and analysts would complete all application changes, corrections, and enhancements. According to DHS, current staff is at capacity workload.
- It is assumed to meet the July 1, 2014 start date; the department will have to shift resources from current projects to make the necessary changes to meet the requirements of the legislation.
- The provisions of the bill may result in a reduction in TANF assistance granted to applicants. It is unknown how many of the new applicants will not be able to provide the necessary documentation to receive the full grant. Any TANF funds not utilized due to

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the reduction of assistance will be re-invested in the TANF program to provide other services.

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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/kml