

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1514 – SB 1730

February 22, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Creates the Tyler Head Law which requires the Department of Transportation to establish a driving under the influence (DUI) memorial signing program for the erection and maintenance of memorial signs within the rights-of-way of the state highway system and the state's portion of the interstate system commemorating persons who have died as a result of a vehicular accident caused by a driver under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other intoxicant. Authorizes an immediate family member of a deceased victim to request a memorial sign within one year from the date of conviction of the driver.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – \$4,700/Highway Fund

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (012631): Deletes and replaces language in the bill such that the amended bill requires the Department of Transportation (TDOT) to establish a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) memorial signing program for the erection and maintenance of memorial signs within the rights-of-way of conventional state highways to commemorate persons who have died as a result of a vehicular accident caused by a driver under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other intoxicant. Defines a conventional state highway as a highway on the state highway system that is characterized by at-grade intersections and a lack of control of access. Authorizes an immediate family member of a deceased victim to request a memorial sign within one year from the date of conviction of the driver. Urges TDOT to install a memorial sign to honor Tyler Head.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$3,000/FY16-17/Highway Fund
\$2,900/FY17-18 and Subsequent Years/Highway Fund

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

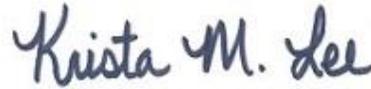
- According to the Department of Safety, from 2012 to 2014, the average number of persons who died as a result of vehicular accidents caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol were 73; by drivers under the influence of drugs were 84; for a total average of 157 per year. These numbers are assumed to remain constant in subsequent years.

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- Based on the information provided by TDOT, it is estimated that approximately 60 percent of such accidents, or 94 fatalities (157 fatalities x .60), occurred on conventional state highways.
- According to TDOT, there is no allowance under the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for general safety campaign message signs like those proposed by this bill as amended.
- TDOT designs signage that will receive approval by the Federal Highway Administration, thus allowing the proposed memorial signing program to be fully implemented.
- According to TDOT, each sign would increase state expenditures from the Highway Fund by approximately \$150.
- Immediate family members of 20 percent of the 94 annual fatalities would request signage be erected in the victim's name for a total of 19 signs per year (94 fatalities x 20.0%).
- One additional sign will be installed to memorialize Tyler Head in the first year.
- The increase in state expenditures from the Highway Fund is estimated to be \$3,000 (\$150 per sign x 20 signs) in FY16-17, and \$2,850 (\$150 per sign x 19 signs) in FY17-18 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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