

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 834 - SB 1246

March 4, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Defines a “released time course” as period of time that a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious moral instruction by a sponsoring entity off of school property. Requires local boards of education to adopt a policy that excuses a student from school to attend one released time course in religious moral instruction for at least one class period per week. Attending students will be responsible for all missed classwork. All local boards of education shall provide a form to all schools that a student’s parent or guardian must sign before the student will be allowed to participate in such courses. The local education agency (LEA) shall not be responsible for transportation to or from the released time course. The released time course shall be counted as part of the student’s actual school day and the student shall not be penalized for any schoolwork missed during released time. The LEA may determine the courses or electives from which a student may be excused in order to participate in a released time course.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Participating students will continue to be counted as being enrolled in their home LEA.
- No change in the state and local match required and provided by the Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula.
- LEAs will not be responsible for transportation to and from released time courses.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey L. Spalding".

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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