

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1855 - SB 2188**

March 15, 2016

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for knowingly neglecting a child under 18 years of age so as to place the child in substantial risk of harm or injury.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

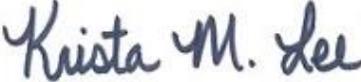
Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 39-15-401 prohibits any person from knowingly treating a child under 18 years of age in such a manner as to inflict injury and from knowingly abusing or neglecting a child under 18 years of age so as to adversely affect the child's health and welfare. Such offenses are Class A misdemeanors unless the child is under eight years of age, in which cases the offense is either a Class D felony or Class E felony.
- The bill would create a Class A misdemeanor for knowingly neglecting a child under 18 years of age so as to place the child in a substantial risk of harm or injury.
- The bill could result in some misdemeanor convictions for conduct not currently covered under Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-15-401, but it is assumed the bill will not significantly increase local incarceration costs.
- The Department of Children's Services (DCS) indicates that it would already be involved in cases in which a person knowingly placed a child in substantial risk of harm or injury.
- It is assumed that the bill will not significantly impact operations of DCS.
- It is assumed that any impact on the caseloads of the courts, district attorneys, and public defenders can be accommodated within existing resources.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts and the District Attorneys General Conference confirm that the bill will not significantly impact their caseloads.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

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



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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