

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1905 - SB 2186

January 29, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires each local education agency (LEA) to adopt a policy regarding the appropriate inclusion of religion in local curriculum and instructional materials and to provide the public an opportunity for comment before adoption of the proposed policy. Requires each LEA to make a syllabus available to the public that contains a course calendar, major assignments, and procedures for parental access to instructional materials. Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to initiate the revision process for the social studies standards and to ensure that the revised standards do not promote religion or have the effect of religious indoctrination or proselytism. Requires teacher training institutions to provide instructional material to all students on what is constitutionally permissible when teaching religious content and strategies for ensuring that the curriculum is educationally sound, fair, neutral, and objective.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

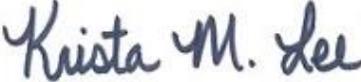
Assumptions:

- LEAs will adopt the appropriate policies and prepare syllabi for public dissemination in the normal course of business without an increase in personnel or a significant increase in printing costs. The syllabus may be disseminated electronically.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Education, the SBE has already begun the social studies standards revision. There will be no additional expenditures for social studies standards revision that is outside of the normal cycle of the state's curriculum revision process.
- Ensuring that the revised social studies standards meet the requirements of the bill with regard to religion will have no fiscal impact on state government.
- Teacher training institutions will not be required to prepare new courses or purchase new curriculum.

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CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista M. Lee in black ink.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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