

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1976 - SB 2002

February 19, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires school principals to initiate an investigation of a report of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying and conduct an appropriate intervention within 20 days of receiving the report, unless more time is needed and appropriately documented. Requires school principals to immediately inform the parent or guardian of students involved and the availability of counseling and support services that may be necessary.

Requires each local education agency (LEA) to include in their policies on such behavior a procedure for referrals for appropriate counseling or other services for students that are involved. Revises the data required to be included in the annual report that LEAs send to the Department of Education (DOE) on harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying.

Adds the Education Instruction and Programs Committee of the House of Representatives to the list of recipients of the DOE's annual report on these behaviors. LEAs are encouraged to review their policies on harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying at least once every three years and to transmit any changes to the DOE.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

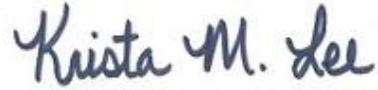
Assumptions:

- Revisions to existing LEA policies on harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying will be done within the normal course of school board meetings without an increase in local expenditures.
- Principals or their designees will notify parents of student involvement and of the availability of support programs without an increase in local expenditures.
- LEAs will not be required to provide counseling or other support services.
- Any increase in state or local expenditures to report additional items to the Department of Education or to the General Assembly is estimated to be not significant.

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CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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