

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1974 - HB 2338**

March 10, 2016

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires a court to take certain actions when a child is testifying, including, but not limited to: asking questions in a manner appropriate to the child's age, ensuring that a child testifies at a time of day when the child is best able to understand the questions, and limiting the duration of the child's testimony.

Upon motion of any party or of a parent, guardian, or guardian ad litem, the court must allow a child to have a toy, blanket, or other comforting item if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that doing so will not likely prejudice the trier of fact in evaluating the child's testimony.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-1-102 grants every court the power (1) to control the conduct of its officers and all other persons connected with a judicial proceeding before the court and (2) to control its processes and orders.
- It is assumed that a court already has the discretion to make a courtroom child-friendly.
- It is assumed that the bill will not significantly impact the operations of courts.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts confirms that the bill will not significantly impact the courts.

**CERTIFICATION:**

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/trm

**SB 1974 - HB 2338**