

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED
FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

HB 1554 - SB 1565

May 21, 2020

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE), based on the results of an online verification test, to allow Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests to be administered in a computerized format in the 2020-2021 year and subsequent school years. Authorizes a local board of education to administer TCAP tests in paper format if the Commissioner of DOE authorizes TCAP tests to be administered in a computerized format. Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to notify DOE by September 1 of each year if the LEA has chosen to administer TCAP tests for the current year in a paper format. Requires DOE to provide TCAP materials in a paper format to each LEA choosing to administer TCAP tests in a paper format.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Other Fiscal Impact – Due to a number of unknown factors, an exact fiscal impact cannot be quantified. The proposed legislation could result in possible future savings not being realized.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014262): Deletes all language after the enacting clause and rewrites the original bill to authorize the Commissioner of the DOE, based on the results of an online verification test, to allow end-of-course examinations to be administered in a computerized format in the 2020-21 year. Requires all TCAP tests to be administered in a paper format in the 2020-21 school year, regardless of the results of the online verification test. Authorizes the Commissioner of DOE, based on the results of an online verification test, to allow TCAP tests to be administered in a computerized format in the 2021-22 year and subsequent school years.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

On February 5, 2020, a fiscal memorandum was issued with the following fiscal impact:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this impact has been updated. The corrected fiscal impact is as follows:

(CORRECTED)

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Public Chapter 475 of 2019 requires TCAP testing for the 2019-20 school year to be administered in paper format; it also authorizes the Commissioner of DOE to determine the format for TCAP tests administered in the 2020-21 school year.
- The current vendor contract with DOE includes costs that are required for the development and administration of the TCAP exam regardless of the testing platform (paper or online).
- The development, set-up, and technical support costs are unchanged by the number of students taking the online exam or how many paper tests are printed.
- Based on the current vendor contract, the cost of creating the tests is \$10,788,462. Additionally, administering the test in a paper only format will result in expenditures of approximately \$5,522,106 and administering the test in online only format will result in expenditures of approximately \$3,747,558. The annual funding allocations are sufficient to cover costs of both paper and online formats.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TNReady testing requirements were cancelled following mandated statewide school closures for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.
- As a result of certain assessment activities not completed following the cancellation of TNReady testing requirements, including the scoring of tests and reporting student results, it is estimated that DOE will save an excess of \$4,000,000 in FY19-20.
- DOE spent approximately \$11,000,000 on printing assessment materials in FY19-20 that were not used; it is assumed these materials will be used for the next TNReady assessments in FY20-21.
- Any impact resulting from tests being administered in paper format in FY20-21 is considered not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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