

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 133 - SB 90

February 21, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Specifies that for a person to be eligible for a free photo identification license for the purposes of voting, the person must not already have a valid government issued photo identification necessary for voting in this state.

Authorizes the use of a driver license from another state to establish a person's identity for the purposes of being issued a photo identification license by the Department of Safety (DOS) for the purposes of voting.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Forgone State Revenue – Exceeds \$12,000/Department of Safety

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$2,000/Department of Safety

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-336, a photo identification license shall be free of charge to a person who signs an affidavit stating they do not have a valid government issued photo identification, is a registered voter of Tennessee, and needs a photo identification license for voting purposes.
- Valid government issued photo identification necessary to vote include a Tennessee driver license, an identification card issued by Tennessee or the United States (Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-112).
- Under the provisions of this legislation, a person is eligible for a free photo identification license if they do not have valid government issued photo identification necessary for voting in this state, is a registered Tennessee voter and need such a license to vote.
- This would allow persons with out-of-state driver licenses that are not expired and are registered voters of Tennessee to receive a free photo identification license for the purposes of voting.
- According to the Tennessee Board of Regents Enrollment Fact Book of Fall 2016, there were 16,783 out-of-state students that attended a Tennessee public university or community college.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-112(c)(2)(B), an identification card issued to a student by an institution of higher education containing a photograph of a student shall not be evidence of identification for purposes of verifying the person's identification on the application for ballot.

- Therefore, it can reasonably be estimated that at least 25 percent, or 4,196, of those students are registered to vote in Tennessee and will apply for this free photo identification license.
- According to a 2016 National Student Clearinghouse Research Center report, the average time enrolled for associate and bachelor's degree earners was 3.3 years and 5.1 years, respectively. The average time an out-of-state college student resides within Tennessee is estimated to be 4.2 years $[(3.3 + 5.1) / 2]$.
- Given the expected timeframe, it can be estimated that at least 999 of these photo identification licenses will be issued to out-of-state college students each year (4,196 students / 4.2 years).
- Considering other demographics that would be eligible under the provisions of this legislation, it can be estimated that a minimum of 1,000 photo identification licenses will be issued at no charge to the applicant by DOS each year.
- The printing cost to produce one photo identification license is \$1.99. The recurring increase in state expenditures for DOS is estimated to exceed \$1,990 (1,000 x \$1.99).
- The fee to obtain a photo identification license is \$12.00.
- Estimating that the minimum 1,000 persons receiving the license for free each year could have otherwise paid for the license, but previously such individuals chose not to apply for such photo identification under current law, the recurring forgone revenue to DOS is estimated to exceed \$12,000 (1,000 x \$12).
- Authorizing the use of a driver license from another state to establish a person's identity for the purposes of being issued a photo identification license will not result in a significant impact to state expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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