

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 297 – SB 853

March 11, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the “STOP Act”. Adds incarceration for a term not to exceed 11 months and 29 days as a punishment option for a driver who fails to stop their vehicle upon approaching a school bus. Authorizes a local education agency (LEA) to install and operate an external video system on its school buses that may be used to detect and prosecute violations or § Tenn. Code Ann. 55-8-151. Specifies rules and procedures related to the use and review of photographs and video obtained from school bus cameras as it relates to evidence that may be used to prosecute violations. Sets required minimum specifications for camera capabilities and functionality. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to pay for 65 percent of the costs to any LEA that installs or authorizes installation of an external video system and requires the LEA to pay the remaining 35 percent of the cost.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Up to \$8,482,500/FY19-20

Increase Local Expenditures –

Up to \$4,567,500/FY19-20/Permissive

Exceeds \$9,600/FY19-20 and Subsequent Years/Mandatory*

Exceeds \$1,000,000/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years/Permissive

Assumptions:

- LEAs have a range of options that will impact the cost of installing, operating, and maintaining school bus camera systems. This includes the types of cameras (e.g., analog, HD, multi-camera system, etc.) purchased, the number of cameras per school bus, and whether the LEA purchases the cameras or enters into a lease agreement with a camera system provider. It is assumed the more cost-effective option over time between leasing and purchasing cameras will be to purchase cameras.
- Based on out-of-state districts that have installed camera systems on their school bus fleets, it is estimated that the average cost to install cameras will be \$1,500 per school bus.
- There are approximately 8,700 public school buses in operation in Tennessee.

HB 297 – SB 835

- The proposed legislation will result in a permissive increase in local expenditures and an increase in state expenditures, if an LEA elects to install cameras on its school buses.
- The proposed legislation requires DOE to pay for 65 percent of the costs to any LEA that installs or authorizes installation of an external video system and requires the LEA to pay the remaining 35 percent of the cost.
- The one-time permissive increase in local expenditures to install cameras on all public school buses is estimated to be an amount up to \$4,567,500 in FY19-20 (8,700 school buses x \$1,500 camera costs x 35.0%).
- DOE's share of the installation costs will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures estimated to be an amount up to \$8,482,500 in FY19-20 (8,700 x \$1,500 x 65%).
- Annual maintenance costs for school bus camera systems are estimated to result in a recurring permissive increase in local expenditures exceeding \$1,000,000 statewide in FY20-21 and subsequent years.
- The current penalty for a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-151 is a fine only; the proposed legislation adds a term of incarceration as an alternative form of punishment.
- It is estimated an average of 10 individuals per year will be convicted of a violation of § Tenn. Code Ann. 55-8-151 who will serve time in a local jail.
- The average amount of time that will be served is estimated to be 15 days.
- The average cost to local governments to house an inmate in a local jail facility is \$64 per day.
- The mandatory recurring increase in local expenditures is estimated to be \$9,600 (10 admissions x 15 days x \$64) in FY19-20 and subsequent years.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/alh