

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 307

February 6, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to approve as a special course that offers elective credit, any released time courses for school credit offered to students by a local board of education that adopts such a policy. Requires instructors of a released time course to be licensed. Authorizes the SBE to promulgate rules or adopt policies related to the legislation, but prohibits the SBE from requiring curriculum or textbooks for a released time course to be approved by the SBE or the Department of Education (DOE) as a requirement for a student to receive credit.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to current law, Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-130 authorizes a local board of education to adopt a policy that excuses a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for up to one class period each week.
- A released time course is defined as a period of time during which a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious moral instruction taught by an independent entity off of school grounds.
- The independent entity assumes responsibility for all expenditures related to the released time course.
- No change to Basic Education Program (BEP) funding.
- SBE will be able to comply with the legislation using current resources.
- SBE will be able to amend its policies in accordance with the provisions of this legislation during the normal course of business; therefore, any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.
- No significant impact to state or local operations.

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CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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