

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 618 - SB 1497

March 2, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Extends the *Slow Poke Law*, as codified in Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-204, to persons operating vehicles on interstates and multilane divided highways which are two or more lanes in each direction, rather than three or more lanes in each direction.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue – \$1,900

Increase Local Revenue – \$100

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-204(a), on interstate and multilane divided highways that are three or more lanes in each direction, a person shall not operate a vehicle in the passing lane, except when overtaking or passing a vehicle that is in a non-passing lane. A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine only of \$50.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Transportation (TDOT), there are a total of 3,353 miles of interstate and multilane divided highways with two or more lanes in each direction.
- Applying the *Slow Poke Law* to vehicles operating on interstate and multilane divided highways with two or more lanes, rather than three or more lanes, is expected to result in an increase in Class C misdemeanor offenses.
- The increase in the number of citations can be reasonably estimated to be 50 per year.
- An average Class C misdemeanor fine is \$50.
- Twenty percent of fines are assumed to go unpaid due to indigence.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-10-303 and § 40-24-101, 95 percent of collected citation revenue shall be remitted to the state and the remaining 5 percent shall be retained by the applicable local government entity.
- A recurring increase in revenue from citations is estimated to be \$2,000 [(50 x \$50) x 80%].
- The recurring increase in state revenue is estimated to be \$1,900 (\$2,000 x 95%).
- The recurring increase in local revenue is estimated to be \$100 (\$2,000 x 5%).

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- Any addition in workload to the court systems can be absorbed within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jmg