

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1680

January 16, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Exempts physicians and nurse practitioners from the prohibition of holding a wireless telecommunication device while operating a motor vehicle, if they are in actual discharge of their duties.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-199(d), a person, while operating a motor vehicle on any road or highway in this state, shall not physically hold or support, with any part of the person's body, wireless telecommunications device, with the exception of:
 - Law enforcement officers;
 - Campus police officers and public safety officers;
 - Emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technician-paramedics, and firefighters;
 - Emergency management agency officers;
 - Persons using a wireless telecommunications device to communicate with law enforcement agencies, medical providers, fire departments, or other emergency service agencies while driving a motor vehicle, if the use is necessitated by a bona fide emergency, including a natural or human occurrence that threatens human health, life, or property;
 - Employees or contractors of utility services; and
 - Persons who are lawfully stopped or parked in their motor vehicles or who lawfully leave standing their motor vehicles.
- A violation is a Class C misdemeanor, subject only to imposition of a fine not to exceed \$50. However, if the violation is the person's third or subsequent offense or if the violation results in an accident, the fine is \$100 or if the violation occurs in a work zone, it is \$200. Any person violating this section is subject to the imposition of court costs not to exceed \$10.
- Since the hands-free law went into effect on July 1, 2019, the Tennessee Highway Patrol has issued more than 7,500 citations.
- It is estimated that not enough of these citations represent physicians or nurse practitioners engaged in official discharge of their duties to represent a significant amount. Therefore, this legislation will not result in a significant decrease in state or local revenue.

CERTIFICATION:

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

Krista Lee Carsner BS

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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