

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2542 - SB 2473

February 20, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a public school, upon the request of the student's parent or guardian, to excuse a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for one hour per school day, regardless of whether a local board of education has adopted a policy. Authorizes a local board of education to provide students attending a released time course with transportation to and from the place of instruction if the independent entity reimburses the LEA for the costs and expenses of providing the transportation.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-130 a local board of education is authorized to excuse a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for no more than one class period per school day if the local board has adopted this policy.
- The proposed legislation expands this to a requirement open to all students and will apply to all schools, even those that do not currently have a policy related to excused student leave for religious moral instruction.
- Any transportation provided by an LEA for a student pursuant to this section will be reimbursed by the independent entity involved with the student's religious moral instruction and will not have a significant net impact on expenditures.
- Public schools will be able to comply with the proposed legislation within existing resources.
- No impact to DOE or local operations.

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".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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