



February 20, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Commissioner of Safety, in consultation with the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association, Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, and at least one organization that advocates for persons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to design and make available a blue envelope containing written information and guidance on ways to enhance effective communication between a law enforcement officer and a person with such disorder.

Requires, after January 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Safety to provide a blue envelope to a person with ASD, upon request.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditure - \$3,000/FY20-21

Assumptions:

- The Commissioner of Safety, Tennessee Sheriffs' Association, Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, and at least one organization that advocates for persons with ASD can coordinate and design an envelope with existing resources and personnel.
- According to the Federal Highway Administration, there are an estimated 5,377,653 licensed drivers in Tennessee.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network assess that 1.69 percent of the population has been identified with ASD.
- Based on this above figures, it can be reasonably determined that there are approximately 90,882 (5,377,653 x 1.69%) licensed Tennesseans with ASD.
- It is assumed that 20 percent, or 18,176, of that population would request a blue envelope.
- The state of Connecticut implemented very similar legislation on January 1, 2020. According to their figures, the printing of 10,000 blue envelopes cost \$1,500 to their Transportation Fund.
- Connecticut has a population of 3,573,000 compared to Tennessee's 6,770,000.
- It is estimated the Department of Safety would need to print 20,000 blue envelopes prior to January 1, 2021, resulting in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$3,000 in FY20-21.

- Any printing in subsequent years for future drivers can be accommodated with existing resources without a significant increase in state expenditures.
- Any impact on local expenditures is not significant.

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