

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 674 - HB 977

March 1, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates a four-year agriculture education pilot project to be administered by the Department of Education (DOE) for the purpose of providing agriculture education to students in grades 10 through 12. Authorizes DOE to consult with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to implement the pilot project. Requires DOE to: partner with agricultural farmers, business owners, and organizations around the state to provide opportunities for students to gain skills useful in agriculture; assist students in relation to applicable dual enrollment courses and grants; create an application process for students interested in the pilot program; and limit the annual participation number of students to 20 in each grand division of the state.

Authorizes DOE to: give preference to students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches; and partner with various individuals and entities across the state in order to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities in an agricultural field.

Prohibits the use of state funds to support the pilot project. Requires the pilot project to be funded entirely by federal grants or other sources.

Requires the Office of Research and Accountability (OREA) in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury and DOE to study, make recommendations, and report on the pilot project to Education Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives by July 1, 2023.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent the state secures federal funding for the purpose of this pilot program, federal expenditures will increase by unknown amounts. Any impacts to state or local government are considered not significant.

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation will be funded entirely with external funding from federal grants or other sources.

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- To the extent DOE receives federal funding for this pilot project, the DOE is expected to expend such funding on the pilot project on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Any net fiscal impact to DOE is considered not significant.
- It is assumed that local government entities will not provide any funding for this pilot project.
- DOA, OREA, and local education agencies will be able to amend their policies in accordance with the provisions of this legislation during the normal course of business; therefore, any related impacts are estimated to be not significant.
- No change to Basic Education Program (BEP) funding.

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

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