

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 44

January 14, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Basic Education Program (BEP) formula to fund one full-time school social worker position for each 1,500 or fewer students.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$6,647,000/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- The BEP formula currently funds social workers positions at a ratio of 1:2,000 students.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Education (DOE), changing the funding ratio for social workers to 1:1,500 increases the number of social worker positions generated through the BEP from 494.7 to 654.6, for a net increase of approximately 159.9 social worker positions.
- The state share of the BEP will fund approximately \$41,570 per social worker position.
- Re-calculating the FY20-21 BEP, using a social worker to student ratio of 1:1,500 will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$6,647,043 (159.9 positions x \$41,570) for FY21-22 and subsequent years.
- Based on FY19-20 local maintenance of effort levels, no local school districts will need to increase their BEP local match contributions as a result of the proposed legislation, as all districts are currently contributing local funds in excess of the minimum required local match and the increased local match requirements mandated by this legislation do not exceed such current local contributions for any of the districts.
- However, future legislation which alters the BEP funding formula may result in local governments utilizing current excess local contributions to fund the minimum local match requirement and a combination of multiple such legislation may result in mandatory increases in local match requirements for certain school districts.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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