

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 384 – SB 327

January 25, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires when a parent knows, learns, or believes that a child 12 years of age or younger under their care is missing, to make a report to a law enforcement agency or the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation within 24 hours after determining that the child is missing. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for failure of such. Authorizes prosecution for the offense of false reports against a person who knowingly makes a false allegation against a parent for failure to report a missing child.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

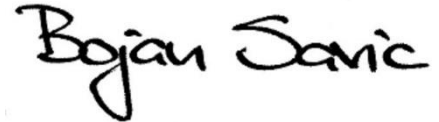
NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-10-202, whenever a parent knows, learns or believes that a child under the parent's charge and care is missing, such parent shall report the child to a police or sheriff's office, or the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation or any law enforcement officer and make a statement to the agency of all available facts that will aid in the recognition, identification or location and recovery of the child.
- According to the 2002 National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children report, *National Estimates of Missing Children: An Overview*, approximately 420,300 children under the age of 11 go missing each year nationwide. Of those, 310,000 are reported to law enforcement.
- In 99.8 percent of all unreported missing children cases, the missing children were returned home or located. It can be reasonably assumed the vast majority of these were within the 24-hour window, pursuant to this legislation.
- Therefore, there will not be enough Class A misdemeanor prosecutions to result in a significant impact to local government.

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, prominent 'B' and 'S'.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

/jg