

HB 1170 - SB 1259

FISCAL NOTE



Fiscal Review Committee
Tennessee General Assembly

February 26, 2025

Fiscal Analyst: Arielle Woodmore | Email: arielle.woodmore@capitol.tn.gov | Phone: 615-741-2564

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes that neglect does not include permitting a child, whose basic needs are met and who is of a sufficient age and maturity to avoid harm or unreasonable risk of harm, to engage in independent activities, as it relates to child abuse and child neglect or endangerment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-15-401(b), any person who knowingly abuses or neglects a child under 18 years of age, so as to adversely affect the child's health and welfare, commits a Class A misdemeanor; provided, that, if the abused or neglected child is eight years of age or less, the penalty is a Class E felony.
- The proposed legislation specifies that neglect does not include allowing a child, whose basic needs are met and who is of a sufficient age, to engage in independent activities including, but not limited to:
 - Traveling to and from school, including by walking, running, or bicycling;
 - Traveling to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities;
 - Playing outdoors;
 - Remaining at home unattended for a reasonable period of time; and
 - Other similar independent activity.
- The proposed legislation aligns with current practices of the Department of Children's Services and is not anticipated to increase caseloads; therefore, the fiscal impact is not significant.
- There will not be a sufficient change in the number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant change in revenue or expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

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

Bojan Savic, Executive Director