

SB 1332 - HB 1281

FISCAL MEMORANDUM



Fiscal Review Committee
Tennessee General Assembly

March 24, 2025

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SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (005966): Requires an independent entity to identify each released time course instructor, as well as any other person holding a position with the independent entity requiring proximity to students participating in a released time course before a local board of education may excuse a student from school to attend a released time course.

Requires each released time course instructor for the independent entity, as well as any other person holding a position with the independent entity requiring proximity to students participating in a released time course to: (1) submit to a criminal history background check prior to the beginning of the 2025-26 school year or prior to becoming a released time course instructor or holding a position with the independent entity requiring proximity to students participating in a released time course and at least every five years thereafter; and (2) release the results of the individual's criminal history records check to the independent entity for examination for purposes of verifying that the individual has not been convicted of an offense listed in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-417(a).

Requires an independent entity to certify to the local education agency (LEA) in writing that each released time course instructor for the independent entity, as well as any other person holding a position with the independent entity requiring proximity to students participating in a released time course has: (1) submitted to the required criminal history background check; and (2) not been convicted of an offense listed in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-417(a).

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- A “released time course” means a period of time during which a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious moral instruction taught by an independent entity off school property.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-130(b), a local board of education is authorized to adopt a policy that excuses a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for no more than one class period per school day.
- It is assumed that the TBI will provide the criminal history records check and that the cost for the required criminal history records check will be borne by the individual or independent entity providing the released time course.
- Any increase in expenditures to the TBI will be offset by an equal, corresponding amount of revenue. The net impact is estimated to be not significant.

- LEAs will be able to comply with the proposed legislation within existing resources such that any fiscal impact is estimated to be 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 "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Executive Director