

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1909 - SB 1868**

February 2, 2024

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Specifies that it is not an offense for an adult person to carry or possess pepper spray, pepper gel, mace, a taser, a stun gun, or another similar device for purposes of self-defense when in any public or private school building or bus, or on any property owned, operated, or in use by any institution or administration of public or private higher education.

Establishes that a college, university, or other educational institution, public or private, shall not prohibit an adult person from carrying such items for purposes of self-defense if the person is lawfully present on the institution's property or on property in use by the institution.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation will apply to all grade levels, public and private.
- Austin Peay University, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University, and the University of Memphis all state that the proposed legislation will have no fiscal impact on their respective institutions.
- Based on information provided by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), any fiscal impact to the institutions under TBR is estimated to be not significant.
- It is assumed that the legislation will not have a significant fiscal impact on any other institutions of higher education.
- Although not explicitly required in the legislation, passage would likely result in numerous schools needing to update policies and procedures regarding the use and storage of the permissible items, as well as potentially incorporating new training around those issues and how to respond in the event one of the items is used in self-defense or otherwise. However, any such updates and trainings are assumed to be absorbable within the existing resources of all of the relevant governments and entities.
- The legislation is not estimated to require any additional security personnel for schools or institutions.
- The authorization to carry such items would apply to adult students and nonstudents.
- The Department of Education has not identified any related adverse federal funding issues.

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- The items established as permissible in this legislation are not explicitly prohibited in current law. As such, authorizing them to be carried in the manner proposed is not estimated to result in a significant reduction in state or local incarceration.
- Any fiscal impact to state or local government 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 "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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