



August 21, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the template prepared by the state-level safety team to include policies and procedures that contain measures to ensure that district employees, including substitute teachers, have classroom access to a telephone, cellular telephone, or another electronic communication device allowing for immediate contact with local emergency services providers, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent that schools choose to purchase additional equipment or upgrade existing technology in a classroom, a permissive increase in local expenditures may occur. However, due to multiple unknown variables a precise fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined.**

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-805 establishes the minimum requirements that the template prepared by the state-level safety team must include, which currently includes policies and procedures for communication with law enforcement officials and parents in the event of emergencies and threats of violence. This legislation expands those policies and procedures to include access to communication devices.
- The state-level safety team will be able to revise the template and develop additional policies and procedures within existing resources and during the normal course of business.
- It is unknown how many classrooms currently have a telephone or other electronic communication device that would allow for immediate contact with emergency services providers, law enforcement, and fire departments. It is further unknown if a school will rely on teachers to use their personal cell phones in order to comply with the proposed legislation.
- If a school chooses to purchase any additional equipment or upgrade existing technology, an increase in local expenditures may occur. However, due to multiple unknown variables a precise fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined.

**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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