

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 26 – SB 1355

March 27, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires that all issued and renewed license plates include the language “In God We Trust” upon the existing inventory of the registration plates in a particular plate category being utilized by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – \$19,800,000/One-Time

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005738): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Authorizes a motor vehicle owner or lessee to elect to be issued a registration plate that includes the language “In God We Trust”. Requires the Commissioner of DOR, beginning July 1, 2017, to cause to be issued registration plates issued or reissued pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-103 that display such language. Establishes that the redesign of the plate shall only be effectuated upon the existing inventory of the registration plates being issued pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-103 without such language being utilized by DOR.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-103(h), DOR is required to reissue a new registration plate of a design as directed by the Commissioner of DOR beginning January 1, 2006, and not later than each eighth anniversary thereafter, if funds for such purpose are appropriated specifically in the general appropriations act.
- DOR will design and issue registration plates bearing the language “In God We Trust” at the time a redesign of existing license plates takes place, without incurring a significant increase in state expenditures, as the newly-designed plates that will include such language will replace some of the plates that would have been issued under current law.
- The total number of registration plates issued or the timing of such issuance will not be impacted significantly by this bill as amended.

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CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista M. Lee in black ink.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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