

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 58 – HB 94**

March 3, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates the “Tennessee Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program”, effective January 1, 2020, for the purpose of providing grant awards for outdoor educational opportunities for qualifying public agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, and community-based programs. Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE), with input from the Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), to establish and administer the program. Requires the program to be phased in with schools and students with the greatest needs; and to focus on students who qualify for free and reduced lunches and those who are academically at-risk. Requires the creation of a separate account within the Department of Treasury to be known as the Outdoor Education and Recreation Program Account to be funded by General Assembly appropriations, gifts, grants, and other donations for the purpose of funding the program.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures –**

**\$28,000/FY19-20/General Fund**

**\$56,000/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years/Outdoor Education  
and Recreation Program Account**

**Other Fiscal Impact - To the extent state funds are deposited to and expended from the newly-created Outdoor Education and Recreation Program Account (OERPA), there will be a shift of use for such state funding from other general purposes of state government to the purposes specified in this legislation.**

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation requires Treasury to establish and maintain an account in the state pooled investment fund pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 9-4-603 for purposes of funding the Tennessee Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program.
- Funding for the grant program will consist of appropriations from the General Assembly, gifts, grants, and other donations received by DOE for the purposes of the grant program.
- Treasury will be able to comply with the proposed legislation using existing resources.

- Beginning January 1, 2020, DOE will require one Education Consultant 1 position resulting in an increase in state expenditures of \$28,000 [(\$42,396 salary + \$13,604 benefits) x 50% for half-year] in FY19-20; and a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$56,000 (\$42,396 salary + \$13,604 benefits) in FY20-21 and subsequent years.
- It is assumed the DOE will require an additional appropriation of \$28,000 from the General Fund in FY19-20 relative to the position for program startup; and that the recurring position costs of \$56,000 will be paid from funding deposited to the OERPA beginning in FY20-21.
- The responsibilities of the position would include creating the grant rubric, developing and reviewing grant applications, communicating the grant opportunity to potential applicants, sourcing of funds, ensuring collaboration between TDOE and TDEC, ensuring compliance with terms of the grant, and evaluating for adherence to Tennessee Academic Standards.
- TWRA will be able to comply with the proposed legislation using existing resources.
- It is assumed that state parks will be used as venues for the grants programs and that TDEC will be reimbursed for any increase in expenditures from the OERPA.
- Due to unknown factors such as the extent of appropriations made by the General Assembly, gifts, grant, and donations to the OERPA; an exact fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined. However, it is assumed that any such funding deposited to the OERPA will be spent for its intended purpose.

**CERTIFICATION:**

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/alh