

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 294 – SB 917

February 19, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes students to take the ACT WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) examinations in lieu of retaking the post-secondary readiness assessment prior to graduation and subject to available appropriations.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$1,500

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-6001 permits a student to retake a post-secondary assessment examination one time at no cost to the student if funds are available.
- There are three assessments used to obtain the NCRC which would all be administered on the same day.
- The cost to retake the ACT is approximately \$30.
- The cost to take the WorkKeys® exam is \$24 (plus an additional \$4.00 for printing and an additional \$4.00 for setup); therefore, the total cost per WorkKeys® exam is estimated to be \$32 (\$24 + \$4 + \$4). This price includes all three assessments required to obtain the NCRC.
- The Department of Education receives an annual appropriation of approximately \$570,000 for students to retake the ACT and all of this dedicated funding is spent each year.
- It is assumed there will be a minimum of 292 students statewide, equivalent to a minimum of two students for each of the 146 local education agencies (LEAs), which will elect to take the WorkKeys® exam in lieu of retaking the ACT each year.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$1,460 [292 students x (\$32 - \$30)].
- The WorkKeys® exam is not uniformly administered statewide, at least relative to ACT test administration. Given there is no requirement for LEAs to provide students transportation to and from WorkKeys® exam testing locations, it is assumed that students electing to take the WorkKeys® exam will provide their own transportation to and from the testing site. As a result, any relative increase in local expenditures is estimated to be not significant.

- Any other impact to local government for test administration is estimated to be not significant because the total number of test examinations is not expected to change.

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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