

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 703 - HB 858

February 27, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a local education agency (LEA) operating a virtual school or virtual education program to exceed current statutory maximum class sizes by up to 30 percent, but requires special education class sizes to comply with requirements established by the State Board of Education (SBE). Requires a virtual school to maintain records and monitor compliance with class size requirements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The State Board of Education's (SBE) continuous learning plan for the 2020-21 school year authorizes a public virtual school or virtual education program to increase the enrollment in virtual classes up to 25 percent; the proposed legislation increases the maximum class size by an additional 5 percent.
- The table below illustrates current maximum class sizes established by Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104, the maximum class size with the additional 25 percent increase in enrollment currently allowed under the SBE learning plan, and the maximum class size with the additional 30 percent authorized by the proposed language:

Grades	Current Maximum	25 Percent Increase	30 Percent Increase
K – 3	25	31	33
4 – 6	30	38	39
7 – 12	35	44	46
Career & Technical Ed	25	31	33

- Increasing the number of students allowed in a virtual classroom will provide schools more flexibility with resources and may result in a temporary decrease in local expenditures; however, any fiscal impact 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 "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'B' and 'S'.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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