

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 988 – SB 949

March 11, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) to provide weekly mental health counseling to each child in a detention or shelter care facility. Requires mental health providers to be licensed and consider the findings and recommendations of any validated risk and needs assessment or individualized case plan relevant to the child.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$628,800**

Assumptions:

- The amount of time a child is detained in a juvenile detention center varies from a few days to a month or more.
- Based on information provided by the DCS, in FY17-18:
  - 1,631 children spent 4-10 days in a detention center.
  - 1,356 children spent 10-30 days in a detention center.
  - 1,163 children spent more than 30 days in a detention center.
- A mental health counseling session costs \$65 per child.
- Children who spend 4-10 days in a detention center will require at least one mental health counseling session to meet the provisions of the proposed legislation.
- The increase in expenditures associated with providing mental health counseling to children who spend 4-10 days in a detention center is estimated to exceed \$106,015 (1,631 x 1 session x \$65 per session).
- Children who spend 10-30 days in a detention center will require an average of 2.5 mental health counseling sessions to meet the provisions of the proposed legislation.
- The increase in state expenditures associated with providing mental health counseling to children who spend 10-30 days in a detention center is estimated to be \$220,350 (1,356 x 2.5 average sessions x \$65 per session).
- Children who spend more than 30 days in a detention center will require at least 4 mental health counseling session to meet the provisions of the proposed legislation.
- The increase in state expenditures associated with providing mental health counseling to children who spend more than 30 days in a detention center is estimated to exceed \$302,380 (1,163 x 4 sessions x \$65 per session).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$628,745 (\$106,015 + \$220,350 + \$302,380).

**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

/vlh