

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1671 – HB 2067**

February 10, 2024

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Department of Children’s Services (DCS), in consultation with local officials in each county, to identify a location for installation of a newborn safety device in each county by December 31, 2024. Requires DCS to issue funds, appropriated by the General Assembly, to each county to pay for the installation of a newborn safety device by December 31, 2025. Requires DCS to report on the newborn safety devices to the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Health Committees of each house by December 31, 2024, and every subsequent December 31 for each year the General Assembly makes a specific appropriation of funds.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$1,995,000/FY24-25  
\$47,500/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years**

**Increase Local Expenditures – \$482,900/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years\***

Assumptions:

- According to Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-255(a)(3), a newborn safety device is a device that is designed to allow a mother to anonymously place a newborn, 14 days or younger, with the intent to leave the infant for an emergency medical services provider to remove and take custody of. The device is required to have a dual alarm system that is to be tested once per month and visually checked twice per day, and is approved by and located within a police station, fire station, or hospital that is staffed 24 hours every day by a licensed emergency medical services provider.
- It is assumed that local governments will be able to properly test and monitor newborn safety devices without an increase in personnel or resources.
- Every county in Tennessee currently has either a non-volunteer fire department, 24 hours a day medical center, or a 24 hours a day sheriff’s office, except for Grainger and Morgan county.
- In order to ensure that these two counties have a qualified emergency medical services provider available 24 hours a day, they will be required to each hire four additional firefighters to ensure the volunteer fire stations are constantly staffed, which will result in the following increase in expenditures:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b># Positions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Firefighter	\$44,904	\$15,462	8	\$482,926

- The proposed legislation does not require the newborn safety devices to be installed until December 31, 2025. However, it is assumed that the two counties will install the devices prior to that date and the additional positions are assumed to be required for the full year, beginning in FY25-26.
- The average cost of installation for a newborn safety device is approximately \$21,000. It is assumed all funding will be provided by the state in FY24-25 and one device will be installed in each county subsequent to that.
- In order to install a newborn safety device in each of Tennessee’s 95 counties, there will be a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$1,995,000 (\$21,000 x 95) in FY24-25, and a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$500 per device for maintenance, for a total of \$47,500 (\$500 x 95) in FY25-26 and subsequent years.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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