

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1957 - HB 2079**

February 9, 2024

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes a licensed veterinarian to report to the appropriate authorities their reasonable cause that an animal has been subjected to cruelty and to appear and testify in a judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the care of the animal without violating veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality. Establishes that a veterinarian acting in accordance with the proposed legislation is immune from any civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action from the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners if the action was taken in good faith.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation will not significantly impact operations or expenditures of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health. Any impact on the number of veterinary licenses will be not significant.
- Explicitly authorizing veterinarians to appear and testify in a judicial proceeding is not expected to significantly increase the total convictions of animal cruelty; therefore, there will not be a significant increase in state or local incarceration, nor a significant increase in the workload for courts.

**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".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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