

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 978 - SB 1610**

February 21, 2021

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates a Class C misdemeanor offense, punishable only by a \$50 fine and community service work between 20 and 40 hours, for solicitation or camping along a controlled-access highway or entrance or exit ramp. Expands Equal Access to Public Property Act of 2012 to apply the offense of unauthorized camping on local government properties.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-414(d)(1), it is an offense for a person to engage in camping on property owned by the state knowing that the area on which the camping occurs is not specifically designated for use as a camping area by the department or agency responsible for the land.
- Based on information previously provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, there have been zero convictions under Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-414 over the past five years.
- It is assumed that expanding the Equal Access to Public Property Act of 2012 to include local government property will not substantially increase convictions.
- Any impact resulting from requiring 20 to 40 hours of community service for violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-414 is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on the Fiscal Review Committee's 2008 study and the Administrative Office of the Courts' 2012 study on collection of court costs, fees, and fines, collection in criminal cases is insignificant. The proposed legislation will not significantly increase state or local revenue.

**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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