

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 700 - SB 925

March 16, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Exempts drivers and passengers over 21 years of age from the requirement to wear a helmet while operating or riding motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, and motorized bicycles, if the person is covered by private health or medical insurance, and does not have insurance through the Bureau of TennCare; prohibits a law enforcement officer from issuing a citation for violation of this act, unless the officer also cites the individual for a separate traffic offense.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue - \$131,600/Recurring

Increase Local Revenue - \$22,600/Recurring

Other Fiscal Impact - To the extent an individual who has private insurance is involved in an accident and such person incurs a traumatic brain injury as a result of not wearing a helmet prompted by passage of this legislation, and the individual subsequently becomes eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and therefore becomes automatically eligible for TennCare, the increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$17,500, and the increase in federal expenditures is estimated to exceed \$32,500.

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Revenue, there were 167,141 motorcycles registered in Tennessee as of January 2015.
- Exempting riders over 21 years of age from the helmet requirement will result in approximately 0.25 percent more registrations in Tennessee compared to registrations in the absence of the bill. This is based on the presumption that reduced motorcycle registrations in California, which began to occur in 1992, occurred as a direct result of passage of law in 1991 that required operators to wear helmets; thus, it is reasonable to presume that motorcycle registrations will increase in Tennessee if the current law requiring operators to wear helmets in Tennessee is abolished.
- An additional 418 (167,141 x 0.0025) registrations are expected each year with an estimated state title and registration fee of \$20.00 (\$14.50 for registration and \$5.50 for titling). The recurring increase in state revenue is expected to be \$8,360 (418 x \$20).
- Eighty percent of new registrations result from individuals purchasing a motorcycle; the remaining 20 percent is assumed to be for motorcycles currently owned but for which

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there is no current registration. Therefore, the increase in motorcycle sales is estimated to be 334 (418 x 80%).

- An average motorcycle sales price of at least \$5,000 each.
- The current state sales tax rate is 7.0 percent; the average local option sales tax rate is estimated to be 2.5 percent (for the first \$1,600 of the sales price); the state single article sales tax is 2.75 percent (for the portion of the sales price above \$1,600 up to \$3,200).
- The recurring increase in state sales tax revenue is estimated to be \$131,596 [(334 x \$5,000 x 7.0%) + (334 x \$1,600 x 2.75%)].
- The recurring increase in local option sales tax revenue is estimated to be \$13,360 (334 x \$1,600 x 2.5%).
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-6-103(a)(3)(A), local governments receive 4.603 percent of state sales tax revenue as state-shared sales tax revenue.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-6-103(q), no portion of revenue derived from the 0.5 percent sales tax rate increase, from 5.5 percent to 6.0 percent (effective April 1, 1992), or the 1.0 percent sales tax rate increase, from 6.0 percent to 7.0 percent (effective July 15, 2002), shall be distributed to local government.
- The effective rate of apportionment to local government pursuant to the state-shared allocation is estimated to be 3.617% [(5.5% / 7.0%) x 4.603%].
- The recurring increase in local government revenue from the state-shared allocation is estimated to be \$4,228 (334 x \$5,000 x 7.0% x 3.617%).
- The local registration fees are unknown and differ from county to county. The average is assumed to be \$15. The recurring increase in local revenue is estimated to be \$5,010 (334 x \$15).
- The total recurring increase in local revenue is estimated to be \$22,598 (\$13,360 + \$4,228 + \$5,010).
- The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee of the Pennsylvania General Assembly completed a study in 2008 titled, *Motorcyclist Injuries and Fatalities Since the 2003 Repeal of the Mandatory Helmet Law*. This study showed that helmet usage declined among riders in crashes from 82 percent to 58 percent following repeal of the helmet law. This represents a change in helmet usage among 24 percent of riders (82% – 58%).
- The overall number of TennCare enrollees could increase because an accident leading to substantial medical bills for a non-TennCare accident victim could lead to eligibility for the medically needy spend down program. Anyone permanently injured could become eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and be automatically eligible for TennCare. SSI is a mandatory Medicaid category that the state chooses to accept the federal determinations of eligibility. The number of individuals who will meet this eligibility determination is unknown and cannot be quantified.
- Any TennCare expenditures will receive a federal match rate of 65.035 percent.
- The Bureau of TennCare reports in 2013, there were 489 TennCare enrollees 18 years old or older injured as a result of a motorcycle accident. The bureau's expenditures for these enrollees totaled \$4,448,819. Of these enrollees, 113 had traumatic brain injuries, with claims totaling \$1,915,970. The two highest costs incurred by a single enrollee with a traumatic brain injury were \$267,945 and \$237,167. Six enrollees (including the previous two) had expenses exceeding \$100,000 and thirteen had expenses exceeding \$50,000.

- Based on the information provided by the Bureau of TennCare, a privately insured accident victim who becomes SSI and TennCare eligible, as a result of an accident resulting in a severe head injury prompted by passage of this bill, would cause an increase in state and federal expenditures by an amount reasonably expected to exceed \$17,483 (\$50,000 x 34.965% state match) and \$32,517 (\$50,000 x 65.035% federal match) respectively.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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