



March 3, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the *Sexual Assault Response Team Act*. Requires, by January 1, 2024, each local law enforcement agency to assemble an adult sexual assault response team (team) to respond to incidents of sexual assault with adult victims that occur within the agency’s jurisdiction. Requires the team members to possess expertise in a variety of disciplines relevant to sexual assault response which include, but are not limited to, victim advocacy, law enforcement, criminal prosecution, healthcare services, and mental health services. Establishes that communications between a team member and a sexual assault victim are confidential and not public records, except when ordered otherwise by a court. Requires, upon establishment of the team, the chief law enforcement officer of each agency to report the name and areas of expertise of each team member to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$20,527,700/FY23-24*

Exceeds \$19,460,200/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years*

Other Fiscal Impact – There will be an unknown increase in state expenditures related to training of local law enforcement personnel through the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Assumptions:

- It is assumed the proposed legislation will require at least every county sheriff’s office and every municipal police force in the state to create such a team.
- It is assumed that local sheriffs and police are authorized to work with state and local partners to include members of other organizations, departments, agencies or entities as part of a team, to any extent possible.
- The could include, for example, a member of a local health department being assigned to a team to provide mental health services to sexual assault victims. In such cases, it is not known if a person who is employed by another entity will require additional compensation for that person’s service to the team.
- Even so, full compliance of the proposed legislation for all local law enforcement agencies is estimated to result a significant local fiscal impact.

- It is not known how many local law enforcement agencies may be able to assemble a team that meets the legislation's requirements by utilizing existing resources. It is assumed that a small number of agencies in the larger counties and cities may be able to comply utilizing existing resources. However, it is assumed that almost every agency will need to hire at least one additional person, with many needing to hire multiple people.
- Therefore, for the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that each local sheriff's office and each municipal police agency in the state will need to hire, train, and fully equip at least one additional person.
- It is not known in which fields of expertise or service any particular agency may be lacking to assemble a proper team, and for which the agency will need to partner with an outside entity or hire additional personnel.
- Furthermore, across the broad spectrum of services encompassed in the fields of victim advocacy, law enforcement, criminal prosecution, healthcare, mental health, and other services, as they exist in various parts of the state, it is not known what an agency could expect to pay such individuals for their service to the team.
- It is assumed that, for each person an agency needs to hire, the agency will need to pay that individual a base salary of \$45,000.
- There are 95 local sheriff's offices in Tennessee.
- There are at least 210 municipal police agencies in Tennessee.
- Therefore, it is assumed that at least 305 local law enforcement agencies (95 sheriffs + 210 police) will need to hire at least one full-time position in order to assemble a team that meets the requirements of the proposed legislation.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures for salaries and benefits estimated to be \$18,240,220 [(\$45,000 salary + \$14,804 benefits) x 305 positions] in FY23-24 subsequent years.
- In addition, it is assumed that each full-time position will require, at minimum, a one-time expenditure of \$3,500 for equipment and recurring expenditures of \$3,500 for supplies and \$500 for training.
- The mandatory increase in local expenditures associated with local law enforcement teams across the state is estimated to exceed \$20,527,720 { \$18,240,220 personnel + [(\$3,500 equipment + \$3,500 supplies + \$500 training) x 305 positions] } in FY23-24.
- The mandatory recurring increase in local expenditures associated with local law enforcement teams across the state is estimated to exceed \$19,460,220 { \$18,240,220 personnel + [(\$3,500 supplies + \$500 training) x 305 positions] } in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- To the extent local law enforcement agencies hire additional law enforcement officers to assemble a team and seek to have those officers trained through the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy administered by the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI), there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to be \$1,100 per officer, based on information provided by DCI. The timing and total amount of any such increase is unknown.

**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.

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

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