

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 599 - SB 713**

February 12, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to compile and publish on the TDEC's website data relevant to the occurrence of floods and landslides that occur in this state. Requires TDEC utilize its existing resources to obtain data from other government agencies, media, and citizen scientists. Requires that such data include the geographic location, duration, and severity of floods and landslides that occur in this state. Requires the TDEC to present the geographic location of floods and landslides that occur in Tennessee in a map format.

Requires the TDEC to establish a mesonet consisting of at least one weather monitoring station in each county. Authorizes the TDEC to enter into agreements with public and private institutions for the location, installation, operation, and maintenance of said stations. Authorizes the TDEC to work with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) for the purpose of conveying severe weather warning to emergency service agencies, media, and the public.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$3,475,000/FY23-24  
\$797,200/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- The compilation and publishing on TDEC's website of data relevant to the occurrence of floods and landslides, as well as presenting the geographic location of such in a map format can be accomplished with existing resources, without a significant increase in state expenditures.
- Based on information provided by the TDEC, this legislation will require significant increase in expenditures to purchase necessary equipment for the mesonet and fund six additional positions.
- There will be a one-time increase in state expenditures in FY23-24 of \$2,676,595 for equipment for stations in each of the 95 counties. Such equipment includes various weather measurement systems, computers and data tracking systems, facilities, and vehicles.
- There will be additional costs related to six additional positions, which include one environmental program director, one quality analyst, two field technicians, one instrumentation lab manager, and one lead systems architect.

**HB 599 - SB 713**

- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$712,323 (\$570,084 salaries + \$138,638 benefits + \$3,600 supplies) beginning in FY23-24.
- Additionally, it is assumed that TEMA would need a communications specialist to meet the requirement to convey severe weather warnings to emergency service agencies, media, and the public.
- The TEMA will require one additional communications specialist-lead position beginning in FY23-24.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$84,890 (\$66,000 salary + \$18,290 benefits + \$600 supplies) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- There will be a one-time increase in state expenditures in FY23-24 of \$1,200 for a computer.

*Total Fiscal Impact*

- There will be a total increase in state expenditures in FY23-24 of \$3,475,008 (\$2,676,595 + \$712,323 + \$84,890 + \$1,200).
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures in FY24-25 and subsequent years of \$797,213 (\$712,323 + \$84,890).

**CERTIFICATION:**

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jb