



February 23, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes each house of the General Assembly to appoint a chaplain by voting on nominations made from the floor of each respective house at the start of each biennial legislative session. Requires each chaplain to be given certain privileges, and that the cost be covered by discretionary funds available to each chamber including additional funds at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$52,600/FY24-25
\$44,600/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- Appointment of the chaplains is to take place at the start of each biennial legislative session. The first appointment is assumed to occur in 2025, or FY24-25.
- The provisions of this legislation require the chaplains be given the following:
 - Access to each building where staff and member offices are located, including the second floor of the state capitol;
 - An assigned parking space;
 - An office;
 - Equipment and supplies as necessary to fulfill the duties of a chaplain, including, but not limited to, a computer, a printer, a copy machine and scanner, paper, and other usual and customary office supplies; and
 - Reimbursement for expenses, including mileage and per diem in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-1-106.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-1-106, each member of the General Assembly shall be paid for the member's expenses in attending legislative sessions and legislative committee meetings, and such conferences, symposiums, workshops, assemblages, gatherings and other official meetings and endeavors concerning state business and the duties of a legislator.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-1-106, expense and mileage allowances shall be paid for attending sessions and such other meetings as provided in this section. For attendance at such conferences, symposiums, workshops and meetings which are held outside this state, each member shall additionally receive the expense allowance following such activities if such days are required for travel purposes.

- Based on information provided by the Tennessee General Assembly Legislative Administration, members traveling greater than 50 miles receive \$313 per day.
- For this analysis the maximum estimated amount of reimbursement will be used. Actual expenditures are subject to change every two years thereafter, contingent upon each chaplain's distance from the legislature.
- Each chaplain is estimated to receive per diem for approximately 63 days and 16 weeks of mileage reimbursements.
- Currently members will receive \$0.63 per mile with the average miles traveled per member estimated to be 254 miles roundtrip. The average mileage reimbursement for each meeting is estimated to be \$160 (\$0.63 per mile x 254 miles).
- The increase in state expenditures is estimated to be:
 - \$39,438 [(\$313 per diem x 63 meeting days) x 2 chaplains] for per diem reimbursements; and
 - \$5,120 [(\$160 mileage x 16 weekly roundtrips) x 2 chaplains] for mileage.
- There is estimated to be a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$8,000 [(\$1,000 office supplies + \$3,000 computer equipment) x 2 chaplains] in FY24-25.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$52,558 (\$39,438 per diem + \$5,120 mileage + \$8,000 supplies and computer equipment) in FY24-25.
- A recurring increase in state expenditures estimated to be \$44,558 (\$39,438 per diem + \$5,120 mileage) in FY25-26 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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