

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 580 – HB 992

April 13, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires election officials to ensure that all information that is required on a document is provided prior to accepting the document. Establishes a conclusive presumption that any document accepted by an election official is properly filed and all requirements have been timely met.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (007129): Adds language to the original bill to require the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance (TREF) to audit the campaign account of any member of the General Assembly who spends \$175,000 or more during an election cycle for certain expenditures.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$11,000/One-Time
\$112,500/Recurring**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Adding the conclusive presumption that documents accepted by an election official are properly and timely filed will not result in any significant impact to state or local government.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 2-10-212(a)(2), two percent of all candidates for the General Assembly shall be randomly selected for audit by TREF.
- The proposed language would also require TREF to audit the campaign account of any member of the General Assembly who spends \$175,000 or more during an election cycle for expenditures other than for contributions to a political campaign committee or other candidates.
- TREF will be required to conduct approximately 20 more audits every two years.
- In order to conduct the additional audits, TREF will require one additional auditor and one auditor assistant.

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- The hiring of additional staff will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$112,500 for salaries, benefits, office space rental, and network access.
- There will be a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$11,000 for purchasing computers and supplies.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh