

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1048 - SB 1196**

February 25, 2021

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Dissolves the consolidated general sessions court for White and Van Buren counties and establishes an individual general sessions court for each county, with judges to be elected in the August 2022 elections.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures –**

**\$35,900/White County/FY22-23\***

**\$203,500/Van Buren County/FY22-23\***

**\$40,000/White County/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years\***

**\$241,200/Van Buren County/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years\***

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation dissolves the consolidated general sessions court for White and Van Buren counties and establishes an individual general sessions court for each county.
- Currently, the two counties share a general sessions court. The expenditures of the court are unequally split by the counties.
- In FY19-20, White County expended \$241,226 to the court and Van Buren County expended \$40,022, for a total annual general sessions court budget of \$281,248 (\$241,226 + \$40,022).
- For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that each new general sessions court will have the same expenditures.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-15-102(a), each county shall provide a courtroom for the general sessions court in the county seat and all necessary supplies and equipment for the maintenance of the court and shall defray the expenses thereof from the general fund of the county.
- Courtroom and offices are assumed to be currently available. Each county will require a one-time funding for legal subscriptions, books, and computers of \$2,500 in FY22-23.
- The mandatory increase in local government expenditures to White County in FY23-24 and subsequent years is estimated to be \$40,022 (\$281,248 - \$241,226).
- The mandatory increase in local government expenditures to Van Buren County in FY23-24 and subsequent years is estimated to be \$241,226 (\$281,248 - \$40,022).
- The new judges will not take seat until September 1, 2022.
- The mandatory increase in local government expenditures to White County in FY22-23 is estimated to be \$35,850 [(\$40,022 x 0.8333 partial year) + \$2,500].

- The mandatory increase in local government expenditures to Van Buren County in FY22-23 is estimated to be \$203,514 [(\$241,226 x 0.8333 partial year) + \$2,500].

\*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 "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

/jg