



February 2, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Entitles the District Public Defender of the 15th Judicial District to two additional assistant district public defender positions and one additional district investigator position.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – \$344,300/FY21-22
Exceeds \$325,900/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation creates two assistant public defender positions, one public defender district investigator position. These additional positions will necessitate one additional legal secretary position.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-14-107(b)(3)(A), any assistant public defender with certain prior experience shall be eligible to receive year-for-year credit for the purpose of determining salaries.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-14-107, assistant public defenders and public defender district investigators receive step raises outlined in statute; therefore, this analysis estimates the impact of hiring such positions in FY21-22 and estimates the impact of any subsequent year to exceed the impact of FY21-22.
- The salary and benefits for each of the assistant district public defender positions are estimated to be \$81,973 (\$64,512 salary + \$17,461 benefits) in FY21-22.
- Additionally, each of these positions will require recurring funding for travel, supplies, legal subscriptions, rent, etc. estimated to be \$16,000 per position.
- The salary and benefits for the public defender district investigator position are estimated to be \$60,578 (\$46,164 salary + \$14,414 benefits) in FY21-22.
- Additionally, this position will require recurring funding for travel, supplies, legal subscriptions, rent, etc. estimated to be \$16,700.
- The salary and benefits for the legal secretary position are estimated to be \$44,654 (\$32,508 salary + \$12,146 benefits) in FY21-22.
- Additionally, this position will require recurring funding for travel, supplies, legal subscriptions, rent, etc. estimated to be \$8,000 per position.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 associated with the four positions is \$18,400 [\$4,600 computer and office set up x (2+ 1 + 1)].

- The total increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to be \$344,278{[((\$81,973 + \$16,000) x 2] + \$60,578 + \$16,700 + \$44,654 + \$8,000 + \$18,400}.
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY22-23 resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to exceed \$325,878{[((\$81,973 + \$16,000) x 2] + \$60,578 + \$16,700 + \$44,654 + \$8,000}.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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