

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 547 - SB 589

March 4, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Restores voting rights of persons convicted of certain infamous crimes upon receipt of a pardon or completion of any sentence of incarceration, parole, or probation. Requires the pardoning authority, the warden, agent or officer of the incarcerating authority, or a parole officer or another officer of the supervising authority, to issue a person convicted of certain infamous crimes a certificate of voting rights restoration upon release. Requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to communicate certain information to the Secretary of State (SOS) relative to newly-eligible releases at least twice monthly. Requires the SOS to communicate eligibility with the appropriate county administrators of elections. Requires county administrators of elections to verify with the SOS that a person not submitting a certificate of voting rights restoration is eligible to vote.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$56,000/Recurring

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$100,000/One-Time*

Assumptions:

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-29-203, a person that has been convicted of certain crimes that is eligible to apply for a voter registration card and have the right of suffrage restored is authorized to request a certificate of voting rights restoration.
- The proposed legislation would require a person that is convicted of an eligible infamous crime be issued a certificate of voting rights restoration upon receipt of a pardon or completion of any sentence of incarceration, parole, or probation.
- Based on information provided by the Secretary of State, the proposed legislation will result in the hiring of one person to coordinate the eligibility of released individuals with the Department of Correction and county election administrators and will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures estimated to be \$56,000 (\$42,396 salary + \$13,604 benefits).
- Based on information provided by the Department of Correction, any impact to the Department is estimated to be not significant.
- This analysis estimates there will be a one-time enhanced volume of voting registration after the passage of the proposed legislation.

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- The proposed legislation will require additional county administrator of election staff time to verify with the SOS that persons are eligible to vote.
- Larger cities may require part-time personnel or require current personnel to work additional hours to comply with the provisions of the proposed legislation.
- The mandatory one-time increase in local expenditures for personnel statewide is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

**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.

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/amj