

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 507 - SB 1064

April 3, 2019

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Removes the required duty of the Executive Director of the District Public Defenders Conference to initiate conference calls between district public defenders.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006854):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates three assistant public defender positions. Requires the District Public Defenders Conference to complete a report with recommendations regarding the specific judicial districts in which such positions should be designated and file such report with the Speakers of the House or Representatives and the Senate by October 1, 2019. Upon the filing of such report, authorizes the district attorneys general to interview and employ persons to fill such positions.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$238,400/FY19-20**  
**Exceeds \$294,600/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Hiring individuals on October 1, 2019 will result in expenditures for approximately 75 percent of FY19-20; therefore, the estimated impact of this analysis represents 75 percent of FY19-20 and 100 percent of FY 20-21 and subsequent years.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-14-207, assistant district public defenders receive step raises each year; therefore, this analysis estimates the impact of hiring such positions in FY19-20 and estimates the impact of any subsequent year to exceed the impact of FY19-20.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures in FY19-20 relative to the 3 additional positions is \$17,100 for [(\$2,950 office furniture + \$2,750 computers) x 3].
- Professional privilege taxes will be paid annually by the state as the employer in the amount of \$400 per attorney. It is assumed the attorneys that will be hired are currently

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paying the occupational privilege tax; therefore, no revenue impact to the General Fund is anticipated. However, the Division will require an annual appropriation in order to pay such tax on behalf of these new attorney positions. As a result, the recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$1,200 (\$400 tax rate x 3 attorney positions).

- The total increase in state expenditures for FY19-20 is estimated to be \$238,373 { [(\$188,964 salaries + \$51,066 benefits + \$15,000 travel + \$3,000 software licensing/supplies + \$24,000 rent + \$1,800 annual training + \$9,600 communication) x 75%] + \$17,100 office furniture and computers + \$1,200 privilege tax }.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures beginning in FY20-21 is estimated to exceed \$294,630 (\$188,964 salaries + \$51,066 benefits + \$15,000 travel + \$3,000 software licensing/supplies + \$24,000 rent + \$1,800 annual training + \$9,600 communication + \$1,200 privilege tax).

**CERTIFICATION:**

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/amj