

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 591 - SB 1189**

February 22, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates a process by which a special substitute municipal judge may be appointed to preside over a municipal court if the current municipal judge is unable to preside for any reason.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-18-312, municipal judges and general sessions court judges are empowered to sit by interchange for other municipal court judges.
- Municipal judges are paid a salary by the applicable municipality; however, such rates vary by municipality and ordinance. It is unknown if such municipal judges receive compensation when they are unable to preside over municipal court.
- The proposed legislation allows for a special municipal judge to be appointed by the municipal legislative body or the sitting municipal judge. Any special municipal judge appointed would be required to have the same qualifications as a sitting municipal judge and be required to take the oath of office; however, the special substitute municipal judge does not have to be a current municipal judge or general sessions judge.
- It is assumed that any compensation currently provided to municipal judges or general sessions judges for sitting by interchange under current law will be applied to any special substitute municipal judge authorized by the proposed language, whether appointed by the municipal legislative body or the sitting municipal judge; therefore, any fiscal impact to local government is estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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