



January 15, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Increases the base salary for district attorneys general and district public defenders.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$1,578,200/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years

Other Fiscal Impact – The extent and timing of any permissive increase to local expenditures in Shelby and Davidson County cannot be determined.

Assumptions:

District Attorneys General:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-7-105(a) establishes the salaries for district attorneys general.
- The proposed legislation states that the base salary for district attorneys general shall be \$205,328.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-7-308(d), the executive director of the District Attorneys General Conference (DAGC) shall receive a salary equal to that fixed by law for a district attorney general.
- Therefore, the proposed language will apply to 32 current district attorneys and the executive director of DAGC, for a total of 33 positions.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the new base salary for district attorneys general is estimated to be \$796,226 in FY24-25 and subsequent years.

District Public Defenders:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-14-107(a) establishes the salaries for all district public defenders, except Shelby and Davidson Counties.
- The proposed legislation states that the base salary for district public defenders shall be \$205,328 and provides for the adjustment of the salary to reflect the average percentage pay increase provided for state employees by the *General Appropriations Act*.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-14-302(c), the executive director of the District Public Defenders Conference (DPDC) shall receive a salary equal to that fixed by law for a district public defender.
- Therefore, the proposed language will apply to 30 current district public defenders and the executive director of DPDC, for a total of 31 positions.

- The total recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the new base salary for district public defenders is estimated to be \$757,274 in FY24-25 and subsequent years.
- The salaries for district public defenders in Shelby and Davidson counties are determined by their respective offices and funded primarily by their applicable counties.
- Increasing the base salary for district public defenders paid by the state may result in an increase in local expenditures for Shelby and Davidson counties in order for such offices to maintain pay equity with state funded district public defender positions.
- The extent and timing of any permissive increase in local expenditures cannot be determined.

Post-Conviction Defender:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-30-209(a), the post-conviction defender shall be paid a salary equal to the amount established by law for district public defenders.
- Data from Office of the Post-Conviction Defender indicates that the new base salary will apply to one post-conviction defender.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the new base salary for post-conviction defenders is estimated to be \$24,680 in FY24-25 and subsequent years.

Total Impact:

- The total recurring increase in state expenditures, as detailed in the table below, is estimated to be \$1,578,180 (\$796,226 + \$757,274 + \$24,680) in FY24-25 and subsequent years:

Agency	Number of Employees Impacted	Current Annual Salary	New Salary	Total Annual Salary Increase	Total Annual Benefits Increase	Total Increase
DAGC	26	\$185,328	\$205,328	\$20,000	\$4,680	\$796,226
	7	\$185,328	\$205,328	\$20,000	\$2,078	
DPDC	28	\$185,328	\$205,328	\$20,000	\$4,680	\$757,274
	3	\$185,328	\$205,328	\$20,000	\$2,078	
PCD	1	\$185,328	\$205,328	\$20,000	\$4,680	\$24,680
TOTAL:						\$1,578,180

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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