

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1242 - HB 1217

March 16, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires all local law enforcement agencies to open their shooting ranges for public use when such ranges are not being used by law enforcement personnel. Authorizes all other law enforcement agencies to open their shooting ranges for public use. Requires all public users to sign a waiver releasing the law enforcement agency from liability prior to using the firing range.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Revenue – Exceeds \$100,000

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$100,000*

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Safety, this bill will not fiscally impact the Department.
- According to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, the Department will not open their shooting ranges for public use, so the bill will not fiscally impact the Department.
- State agencies operating a firing range who do not currently allow civilian usage are not expected to change their policy as a result of this bill; any fiscal impact to the state is estimated to be not significant.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-8-116, the law enforcement agency may establish reasonable regulations for the use of the firing range and may charge a reasonable fee for persons or organizations using the range.
- The fiscal impact of this bill to local government expenditures is dependent upon several unknown factors such as the number of facilities across the state operated by local law enforcement, the number of civilian visitors that will utilize any facility, the cost of staffing each facility with trained law enforcement personnel to maintain safety, and the extent of any insurance required for law enforcement agencies. Given the extent of unknown factors, determining a precise impact to local government is difficult. However, the total recurring increase in local expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$100,000 statewide.
- To the extent any local law enforcement charges a fee for usage of a shooting range, there would be a recurring increase in fee revenue to local government. Such revenue will be dependent upon the demand for usage of any facility, the hours any range is available for public use, and the extent of fees charged by any local government

shooting range. Given that the bill requires local law enforcement to open their ranges, and further given that they will incur additional expenses associated with opening their ranges to the public, it is reasonable that local law enforcement agencies will charge a fee sufficient for covering operational expenditures. As a result, the recurring increase in local revenue is reasonably 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jrh