

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 726 - SB 787

March 30, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires, when notice must be made by a board or commission created under the election laws of this state, such notice to be made by United States mail to all registered voters instead of by publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – Net Impact -
\$2,416,900/FY15-16 and Every Four Years Thereafter**

Increase Local Expenditures – Net Impact – \$2,416,900*

Assumptions:

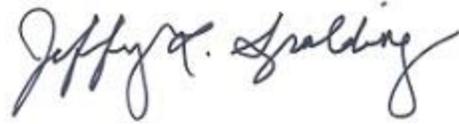
- The Department of State reports (SOS) mailing notices via U. S. Mail would greatly increase expenses related to voter notifications.
- SOS reports that local election commissions can choose to combine certain notices pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-114(a), § 2-3-109(e)(1) and § 2-12-111(a). Notices under Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-103(c) cannot be combined with any other notices. It is not known to what extent local authorities would chose to combine notices pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-114(a), § 2-3-109(e)(1) and § 2-12-111(a).
- The state is statutorily required to fund all expenses for each Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) beginning in FY15-16 and each four years thereafter.
- Based on information provided by SOS, the estimated reduction in statewide expenditures related to newspaper notice publication is \$92,000 per election.
- Further, the increase in state expenditures to mail notifications to every registered voter statewide once every four years is estimated to be \$2,508,900.
- The net increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$2,416,900 (\$2,508,900 - \$92,000). This impact would first occur in FY15-16 and every four years thereafter.
- Local government entities would be responsible for the net increased expenditures for all elections except for elections with a Presidential Preference Primary.

*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.

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Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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