

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 690 - SB 1240

March 30, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes within the Executive Branch of the State of Tennessee the Office of the Solicitor General. The Solicitor General shall be appointed by a joint vote of the General Assembly and serve a term of four years.

Relieves the Attorney General and Reporter of all statutory duties except those related to the reporting of judicial opinions.

Transfers all assistants assigned to or employed by the Attorney General to the Office of the Solicitor General. Sets the Solicitor General's salary the same as an Associate Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$219,900

Other Fiscal Impact – Recurring appropriations estimated to be \$28,249,900 in state funds will shift from the Office of the Attorney General to the newly-created Office of the Solicitor General. In addition to state appropriations, the Attorney General receives other revenue from interdepartmental fees paid by various state departments to offset litigation expenses. The Governor's Proposed Budget Document, page B221, has budgeted \$12,937,200 from these sources for FY17-18. This revenue will also shift from the Office of the Attorney General to the Office of the Solicitor General.

Assumptions:

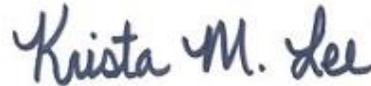
- It is assumed that all positions and associated funds can be transferred with no significant impact to the Attorney General.
- The Governor's proposed budget document for FY17-18, page B-220, recommends the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter receive \$235,000 in state funding for the publication of opinions of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and the Court of Criminal Appeals.
- Further, the Attorney General will continue to receive compensation for performing the duties of the office. The Attorney General receives an approximate salary of \$176,988, for a total recurring expenditure of \$213,592 [$\$176,988 + (\$176,988 \times 0.1127 \text{ benefits}) + (\$127,200 \times 0.0765 \text{ FICA}) + \$6,926.76$].

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- The Attorney General's total proposed state appropriation is \$28,698,500. Approximately \$28,249,908 ($\$28,698,500 - \$235,000 - \$213,592$) in state revenue will be transferred from the Attorney General to the Solicitor General.
- The proposed legislation will increase recurring state revenue by \$28,249,908 for the Solicitor General and decrease recurring state revenue by \$28,249,908 for the Attorney General
- The Solicitor General will receive a salary of \$182,688, commensurate with an Associate Justice.
- The proposed legislation will increase recurring state expenditures from the General Fund by \$219,935 [$\$182,688 + (\$182,688 \times 0.1127 \text{ benefits}) + (\$127,200 \times 0.0765 \text{ FICA}) + \$6,926.76 \text{ insurance}$].

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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