

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1401 - SB 1475

March 26, 2019

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires all district attorneys general to be compensated by the scale set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-7-226 and adjusted by cost of living or annual percentage increases.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006476): Deletes and replaces all language after the enacting clause. Requires all assistant district attorneys general to be compensated by the scale set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-7-226 and adjusted by cost of living or annual percentage increases after July 1, 2022. Effective September 1, 2022, requires the base salary of all district attorneys general be the same as the salary of the highest compensated general sessions judge in Tennessee.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$200,000/FY22-23 and Subsequent
Years**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on information provided by the District Attorneys General Conference (DAGC), compensating assistant district attorneys general by the scale set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-7-226 is current practice; therefore, any impact resulting from the codifying this practice is estimated to be not significant.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-7-105(a), on March 1, 2018, the base salary for district attorneys general was \$156,024 and is required to be adjusted on July 1 to reflect the average percentage pay increase provided for state employees by the general appropriations act.
- Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-15-5003 outlines the minimum compensation for general sessions court judges and specifies that the salary of a general sessions judge may not exceed the salary of a circuit court judge.

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- The estimated FY18-19 salary for a circuit court judge is \$176,364.
- To the extent a general sessions judge in Tennessee is compensated in an amount that exceeds the compensation of a district attorney general in FY22-23 and subsequent years, there will be an increase in state expenditures. The precise impact is dependent upon the salary of the highest compensated general sessions judge and the salaries of the district attorneys general in any fiscal year; however, it is reasonable to estimate that the proposed legislation will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures exceeding \$200,000 in FY22-23 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/amj