

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 727 - HB 1077

April 11, 2019

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires the state coordinator of elections, after filing a report on the convenient voter pilot project created under Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-301, to continue to study convenience voting in other states and to periodically update the State and Local Government Committee of the Senate and the Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives no later than January 31 every odd-numbered year.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (008049):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Authorizes Monroe, Wilson, and Williamson counties to participate in a pilot project to use convenient voting centers upon approval by a supermajority of the county election commission for local elections conducted in 2019, and for federal, state, and local elections scheduled in 2020. Requires a county election commission to, prior to the closing of a polling location due to the opening or availability of a convenient voting center, announce a 30-day period in which the respective commission shall receive public comment from registered voters regarding the closing of the polling location. Requires any such commission, in such instances, to endeavor to ensure that convenient voting centers are located in locations convenient to voters who have been assigned to the closing polling location. Requires signage be placed at the closing polling center during early voting and on election day alerting the public of the closing and informing the public of all convenient voting centers.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Increase Local Expenditures – Net Impact –**  
**Exceeds \$251,000/FY19-20/Permissive**

**Decrease Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$150,000/FY20-21**

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Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on information provided by the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC), the proposed legislation cannot be accommodated within existing resources. The Commission will require additional computers, printers, cards and printing, postage, software and technology estimated to be \$300,000 in FY19-20.
- The Commission will experience a decrease in local expenditures due to savings in personnel, training and election supplies estimated to be \$100,000 in each FY19-20 and FY20-21.
- The permissive net increase in local expenditures to Williamson County is estimated to be \$200,000 (\$300,000 - \$100,000) in FY19-20.
- The permissive decrease in local expenditures to Williamson County is estimated to be \$100,000 in FY20-21.
- The Fiscal Review Committee staff does not have information from Monroe and Wilson counties. However, it is reasonably assumed that the total permissive net increase in local expenditures in FY19-20 is estimated to exceed \$250,000, and the total decrease in local expenditures in FY20-21 is estimated to exceed \$150,000.
- The state coordinator of elections can conduct the required study utilizing existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.
- There will be an increase in local expenditures to post signage, as required by this legislation.
- The cost of such signage is unknown; however, the recurring increase in local expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$1,000 per year statewide.

*\*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.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb