

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2333 - SB 2737

February 13, 2020

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Removes the fee for obtaining a lifetime handgun carry permit for retired law enforcement officers who served at least 10 years, rather than former law enforcement officers who served at least 10 years.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue –**

**Exceeds \$15,700/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years/Handgun Permit Division**

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by DOS, there are approximately retired 2,261 law enforcement officers in Tennessee who qualify to have the fee waived per current law and will continue to under the language of this legislation.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1351(x)(5), the Department of Safety's (DOS) lifetime enhanced handgun carry permit fee of \$200 is waived if the applicant is a former federal, state, or local law enforcement officer who served at least 10 years and was POST-certified or had equivalent training on the date they left the law enforcement agency.
- This law went into effect July 1, 2019. Figures are not yet available as to how many fees have been waived under this provision.
- According to the latest United States Bureau of Justice Statistics' *Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies*, there are approximately 15,976 total sworn state and local law enforcement officers in Tennessee (13,691 local officers + 2,285 state officers).
- The North Carolina Criminal Justice Analysis Center conducted a 2016 survey that concluded law enforcement agencies had an approximant 14 percent attrition rate.
- It is estimated that at least 2,237 (15,976 x 14%) persons sever employment from law enforcement agencies each year.
- According to information provided by the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, an average of 35 percent of law enforcement officers are active for 10 or more years.
- It can be estimated that at least 783 (2,237 x 35%) additional persons are currently eligible to obtain a lifetime enhanced handgun carry permit at no charge each year.
- It is estimated that at least 20 percent, or 157, of those eligible will apply and be issued a permit each year under current law.

- Under the provisions of this legislation, former law enforcement officers who are not yet retired will no longer be eligible to have the fee waived. It is assumed that 50 percent of those who would have had the fee waived under current law will apply for and be issued a lifetime enhanced handgun carry permit under the regular \$200 fee structure each fiscal year under this legislation. This results in an increase in state revenue to the Handgun Permit Division (HPD) of the DOS exceeding \$15,700 [(157 x 50%) x \$200] in FY20-21 and subsequent years.

**CERTIFICATION:**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jmg