

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 469 - HB 548

April 4, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the thirty-second judicial district consisting of Hickman, Lewis and Perry Counties, effective September 1, 2022. Establishes that the twenty-first judicial district consists of Williamson County, effective September 1, 2022.

Establishes that the incumbent trial court judge elected to the twenty-first judicial district shall continue to serve the district until September 1, 2022, at which time the additional trial court shall be transferred to the thirty-second judicial district and presided over by a trial court judge to be elected by voters of the thirty-second judicial district at the August 2022 general election and every eight years thereafter.

Creates the position of a District Attorney General for the thirty-second judicial district, effective September 1, 2022. Transfers the office space and all state-owned furniture, equipment, supplies, books, and other such office property located in the Centerville or Hohenwald offices of the District Attorney General of the twenty-first district and all records, files, papers, and other official documents pertaining to any pending or completed case arising out of any of the counties comprising the thirty-second judicial district to the District Attorney General for the thirty-second judicial district on September 1, 2022.

Creates the position of the District Public Defender for the thirty-second judicial district, effective September 1, 2022. Transfers all records, files, papers, and other official documents pertaining to any pending or completed case arising out of any of the counties comprising the thirty-second judicial district to the District Public Defender for the thirty-second judicial district on September 1, 2022.

Prohibits this legislation from being construed to limit, terminate, or otherwise affect the term or future terms of office of any circuit court clerk, criminal court clerk, or clerk and master.

Establishes that the clerk of court for the newly created thirty-second judicial district shall be elected at the regular August election in 2022 and serve a full four-year term.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$666,700/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

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Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation would create a new trial court judge for the thirty-second judicial district.
- The recurring salary and benefits for a trial judge are \$215,385 (\$176,377 salary + \$39,008 benefits).
- Additionally, the judge position will require recurring funding for operational and travel expenses estimated to be \$7,000 per year.
- Each judge has a legal secretary who receives a salary of \$39,800.
- The recurring salary and benefits for a legal secretary are \$52,973 (\$39,800 salary + \$13,173 benefits).
- Additionally, the legal secretary position will require recurring funding for operational and travel expenses estimated to be \$1,200 per year.
- The proposed legislation creates the positions of a District Attorney General and a District Public Defender for the thirty-second judicial district.
- The recurring salary and benefits for a district attorney general and a district public defender are \$193,037 (\$159,924 salary + \$33,113 benefits) each.
- Additionally, both of these positions will require recurring funding for supplies, travel, legal subscriptions, etc., estimated to be \$2,025 per year each.
- Under the provisions of this legislation, the office space and all state-owned furniture, equipment, supplies, books, and other such office property located in the Centerville or Hohenwald offices of the District Attorney General of the twenty-first district to the District Attorney General for the thirty-second judicial district on September 1, 2022; therefore, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures related to rent, utilities, general supplies, etc.
- The legislation further specifies that it is not to be construed to limit, terminate, or otherwise affect the term or future terms of office of any circuit court clerk, criminal court clerk, or clerk and master. Therefore, though this legislation may result in a reduction of workload for the personnel of the twenty-first judicial district, it is estimated that there will not be a reduction in staff or related expenditures.
- The elections of the newly created positions fall on an existing election cycle; therefore, there is not a significant increase in expenditures related to electing the officials.
- The total recurring increase in expenditures related to salary and benefits is estimated to be \$654,432 [$\$215,385 + \$52,973 + (\$193,037 \times 2)$].
- The total recurring increase in expenditures related to operations and travel is estimated to be \$12,250 [$\$7,000 + \$1,200 + (\$2,025 \times 2)$].
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures beginning in FY22-23 is estimated to be \$666,682 ($\$654,432 + \$12,250$).

CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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