

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 765 – HB 994

February 20, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Lowers the age from 60 to 40 for adults with disabilities to be eligible for public guardianship.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$934,200

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann § 34-7-102(a), the public conservatorship program aids disabled persons who are 60 years of age or older and have no family member or friend who is willing and able to serve as conservator.
- The Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) has nine district area agencies across the state. Each district has one public guardian who provides services for elderly and disabled Tennesseans in the public guardianship program.
- There is an average of 430 individuals in the program at any given time.
- Currently, each public guardian manages an average of 51 cases. The national standard is 21 cases per public guardian.
- Lowering the age requirement for eligibility for public guardianship from 60 to 40 years old will increase the number of individuals entering the program.
- The needs of the younger population differ considerably from those of the current population of individuals in the program and are expected to be more complex and time consuming.
- Based on information provided by TCAD, the proposed legislation cannot be accommodated within existing resources. TCAD will require one additional staff position for each of the nine area agencies, for a total of nine positions, to provide services to individuals in the public guardianship program.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to be \$934,200 [(\$66,674 salaries + \$22,326 benefits + \$6,500 travel expenses + \$8,300 other costs) x 9 positions].

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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