

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 875 - HB 1258

March 30, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Shifts the responsibility of verifying the eligibility of voting rights for felony convicts from the pardoning authority, the warden or an agent or officer of the incarcerating authority, or a parole officer or another agent or officer of the supervising authority, to the Division of Elections or another division within the Secretary of State's office (SOS).

Establishes that any person having requested and received a completed certificate of voting rights restoration is no longer required to obtain a new certificate to register to vote in a different county in which the person becomes eligible to vote because of a change of residence. In any such circumstance, the person must notify the respective administrator of elections in which the person is eligible to vote that the person has an issued such certificate. Such administrator of elections shall request verification of the certificate from the issuing authority.

Removes the current requirement that coordinator of elections print and distribute a sufficient number of voting rights restoration forms to the Department of Correction (TDOC), the Board of Parole, and any other authority that may discharge an applicable person.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – \$5,000/One-Time
\$64,900/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- This legislation will shift the burden of ensuring that a felony convict, having been discharged, is provided an adequate way to receive appropriate paperwork allowing for the restoration of voting rights and ensuring that any certificate of voting rights restoration are issued appropriately.
- Such burden will now fall upon the Division of Elections or another Division within the SOS, whereas the current burden falls squarely on the pardoning authority.
- According to the SOS, it will require one additional staff to ensure that pardoned felony convicts, having requested a restoration of voting rights, are verified and between communication between the appropriate administrator of elections and the TDOC, to ensure verification of a valid certificate restoring voting rights.

SB 875 - HB 1258

- A recurring increase in state expenditures of \$64,866 (\$50,000 salary + \$14,866 benefits) and a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$5,000 (\$2,200 computer + \$1,500 furniture + \$1,300 network/supplies).
- Any decrease in expenditures to the TDOC is estimated to be not significant.

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

/jdb