

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1687 - HB 1765

February 12, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Terminates the Soil Scientist Advisory Committee (Committee) with no wind down period. Transfers the Tennessee Professional Soil Scientists Licensing Program (Program) from the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI) to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Geology.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – There will be a one-time shift of \$24,200 from the Department of Commerce and Insurance to the Department of Environment and Conservation. Any increase in state expenditures is estimated to be not significant.

Assumptions:

- According to the DCI:
 - The Committee was never appointed;
 - As of April 30, 2019, the Program had a fund balance of \$24,220;
 - There is no dedicated staff within DCI for management of the Program, but one staff person oversees the licensing and renewals;
 - In FY17-18, the Program had one application which resulted in licensure;
 - In FY18-19, the Program had three applications resulting in licensure;
 - No denials for licensure have been issued; and
 - Licensed soil scientists are required to take one exam.
- There will be a one-time fund balance transfer from the DCI to the TDEC.
- Given the small number of participants within this program, it is assumed that TDEC will utilize existing staff for oversight of the Soil Scientist Licensing Program; therefore any increase in state expenditures is considered 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".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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