



February 16, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes emergency medical service employees who have been retired for at least nine months to return to work as an emergency medical service employee without loss or suspension of retirement benefits. Qualified personnel may only work for an additional year, unless reappointed to additional one-year terms. This legislation is repealed on July 1, 2023.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – \$38,100/FY22-23/Permissive

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation requires that the salary for a retired EMS personnel not exceed 85 percent of the rate of compensation set by the employing agency for emergency medical service employees with comparable training and years of experience filling similar positions.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the median salary for EMS personnel is \$36,650 in the U.S.; BLS estimates that 31.69 percent of EMS personnel in the U.S. are employed by local governments. For the purposes of this analysis, the respective numbers are assumed to be the same in Tennessee.
- Information provided by the Tennessee Department of Health shows that there are an estimated 20,597 licensed EMS personnel in the state; therefore, the number of EMS personnel in Tennessee employed by a local government is estimated to be 6,527 (20,597 x 31.69%).
- Based on information provided by the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS), it is estimated that 35 percent of EMS personnel are employed by a local government that has withdrawn from or is not covered by TCRS; therefore, it is estimated that 4,243 (6,527 x 65%) EMS personnel work for a TCRS covered employer.
- Based on information provided by TCRS, the ratio of retired EMS to active EMS is 24 percent, meaning it is estimated that there are 1,018 (4,243 x 24%) qualified retired EMS personnel.
- Assuming that the percentage of all retired TCRS members who have returned to work under the current return to work provisions is the same for EMS personnel, it is estimated that 16 (1,018 x 1.58%) qualified EMS personnel would take advantage of this plan.

- Accounting for the advanced experience and number of years worked a retired EMS personnel who is returning to work has, it is assumed that 85 percent of the rate of compensation for the median retired EMS personnel who is returning to work is equal to the median salary for active EMS personnel, or \$36,650.
- For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that all retired EMS personnel who are returning to work will work for one year.
- Based on information provided by TCRS, the average employer contribution rate is 6.5 percent for employers with public safety employees.
- The permissive increase in local expenditures as a result of the proposed legislation is \$38,116 (16 x \$36,650 x 6.5 percent).
- Any impact to TCRS and state expenditures 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

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