

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 857 - SB 1298

March 30, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires issuance of a certificate of voting rights restoration to any person convicted of an infamous crime who on or after July 1, 2017, receives a pardon, is discharged from custody after service or expiration of the maximum sentence imposed by the court for an infamous crime, or is granted a certificate of final discharge from supervision by the Board of Parole or any equivalent discharge from a county correction authority. A person must pay all restitution and court costs before receiving the certificate.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 40-20-112 provides that upon a conviction for any felony a court must find the defendant infamous and the defendant shall be immediately disqualified from exercising the right of suffrage.
- Currently, a person must petition a court to have the person's rights of citizenship, including voting, restored.
- A person who is pardoned, if the pardon does restore full rights of citizenship, may petition for immediate restoration. A person convicted of an infamous crime may petition for restoration of rights of citizenship upon the expiration of the maximum sentence imposed for the infamous crime.
- The proposed legislation would allow a person to have his or her voting rights restored upon expiration or discharge without having to petition the court.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts reports that the proposed legislation will not significantly impact court operations.
- The Secretary of State reports that the proposed legislation will not significantly impact the Secretary's operations.

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CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista M. Lee in cursive script.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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