



April 1, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (017731): Effective September 1, 2024, creates one additional trial court in each of the 4th and 19th judicial districts. Requires the Governor to appoint a person to serve as an additional judge, until September 1, 2026. Requires the qualified voters of the 4th and 19th judicial districts to elect a judge for the created courts in the August 2026 general election to serve until September 1, 2030. At the August 2030 general election, and every eight years thereafter, requires the qualified voters of the 4th and 19th judicial districts to elect a judge for the created courts for the full eight-year term.

Effective September 1, 2024, eliminates part VII of the circuit court Effective July 1, 2024, eliminates part IX of the criminal court in the 30th judicial district. Requires any cases pending on the applicable date be transferred to other circuit or criminal courts within the 30th judicial district.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

**Decrease State Expenditures – Net Impact – \$35,200/FY24-25
\$39,800/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Passage of the proposed legislation will eliminate two current judge positions in the 30th judicial district, the judge in part IX of the criminal court effective July 1, 2024, and the judge in part VII of the circuit court effective September 1, 2024.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-505(c), upon the election of a judicial district judge, a secretary position is created for that judge.
- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the caseloads of the two eliminated judicial positions can be accommodated within existing resources of the 30th judicial district; therefore, the current judicial secretary positions assigned to the two judicial positions will also be eliminated.
- The proposed legislation also creates a new trial court judge position in both the 4th and 19th judicial districts as of September 1, 2024. This analysis assumes two new secretary positions will be filled upon the appointment of the judges by the Governor.
- The total decrease in state expenditures associated with the revised judicial positions is estimated to be \$94,181 in FY24-25 based on the following calculation:

	Judicial District	Position	Salary	Benefits	Total
Eliminated July 1, 2024	30th	Criminal Court Judge	\$ (212,800)	\$ (63,840)	\$ (276,640)
		Criminal Court Secretary	\$ (68,880)	\$ (20,664)	\$ (89,544)
Eliminated Sept. 1, 2024		Circuit Court Judge	\$ (212,800)	\$ (63,840)	\$ (230,524)
		Circuit Court Secretary	\$ (58,356)	\$ (17,507)	\$ (63,217)
Appointed Sept. 1, 2024	4th	Circuit Court Judge	\$ 212,800	\$ 49,215	\$ 218,337
		Circuit Court Secretary	\$ 59,900	\$ 17,545	\$ 64,535
Appointed Sept. 1, 2024	19th	Trial Court Judge	\$ 212,800	\$ 49,215	\$ 218,337
		Trial Court Secretary	\$ 59,900	\$ 17,545	\$ 64,535
			\$ (7,436)	\$ (32,331)	\$ (94,181)

- The one-time increase in state expenditures in FY24-25 associated with the four new positions is \$59,000 [(\$9,500 furniture and office set up + \$5,250 for computer and online software) x 4 positions].
- The total decrease in state expenditures in FY25-26 and subsequent years is estimated to be \$39,767 based on the following calculations:

Judicial District	Position	Salary	Benefits	Total
30th	Circuit Court Judge	\$ (212,800)	\$ (63,840)	\$ (276,640)
	Circuit Court Secretary	\$ (58,356)	\$ (17,507)	\$ (75,863)
	Criminal Court Judge	\$ (212,800)	\$ (63,840)	\$ (276,640)
	Criminal Court Secretary	\$ (68,880)	\$ (20,664)	\$ (89,544)
4th	Circuit Court Judge	\$ 212,800	\$ 49,215	\$ 262,015
	Circuit Court Secretary	\$ 59,900	\$ 17,545	\$ 77,445
19th	Trial Court Judge	\$ 212,800	\$ 49,215	\$ 262,015
	Trial Court Secretary	\$ 59,900	\$ 17,545	\$ 77,445
		\$ (7,436)	\$ (32,331)	\$ (39,767)

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-508(b), the District Attorney General (DAG) of each judicial district, except in the judicial districts comprised of the urban counties of Shelby, Davidson, Knox, Hamilton, and Sullivan, is entitled at least one Assistant District Attorney General (ADAG) position for each trial court judge in the judicial district to which the DAG is assigned, as well as either one additional ADAG if the judicial district is comprised of four or more counties, or two additional ADAGs if the judicial district is comprised of more than six counties.
- If an additional trial court judge is added to a judicial district, and that district does not already have sufficient ADAG positions to satisfy the formula set out here, an additional ADAG position shall be created for that district upon the effective date of the creation of the new judicial position.
- The 4th judicial district is comprised of four counties (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier) and currently has two ADAGs. The 19th judicial district is comprised of two counties (Montgomery and Robertson) and currently has 15 ADAGs; therefore, both judicial districts satisfy the statutory formula. As a result, the proposed legislation will not necessitate any additional ADAG positions to be added to either district.
- The net decrease in state expenditures in FY24-25 resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to be \$35,181 (-\$94,181 + \$59,000).

- The net decrease in state expenditures in FY25-26 and subsequent fiscal years resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to be \$39,767.
- District judge elections will be held during regularly-scheduled general elections; therefore, any fiscal impact to local government is estimated to be not significant.
- Any additional workload on the courts as a result of this legislation, can be accommodated within existing resources and personnel.

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

/vh