



February 21, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Grants authority to the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT), to review the death of any inmate incarcerated within a state correctional facility to make certain determinations. Requires the COT to notify the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Speaker of the Senate upon completion of any review, and to publish an annual report summarizing all reviews conducted.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$98,200/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- According to the 2018 Statistical Abstract, published by the Tennessee Department of Correction, in FY19-20:
 - There were a total of 108 inmate deaths;
 - Ninety-four deaths were ruled to be caused by natural causes;
 - Four were due to execution; and
 - Ten deaths were ruled a homicide, suicide, or accident. These deaths occurred within six different correctional facilities statewide.
- For any review of an inmate death, the COT would determine:
 - The circumstances surrounding the inmate’s death, including identifying any act or omission by the facility or any employee or agent of the facility that may have contributed to the inmate’s death; and
 - If the facility was in compliance with statutory requirements regarding the regulation and care of inmates.
- It is reasonably assumed the COT will review deaths of inmates which are not ruled natural causes or due to execution. The COT will require an additional auditor to conduct such reviews.
- The proposed legislation will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$98,193 (\$70,000 salary + \$18,193 benefits + \$10,000 equipment and travel reimbursement).

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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