



March 10, 2024

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Increases the annual continuing education requirement for county commissioners from seven to eight hours and requires that the training be obtained at County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) conferences or meetings. Extends a \$600 stipend to county commissioners for completion of annual training requirements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – A mandatory, recurring increase in local expenditures, beginning in FY26-27, cannot be estimated with certainty. \***

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 5-5-113(a), commissioners are required, no later than 120 days after election or appointment to complete orientation training provided by CTAS, and to complete at least seven hours of continuing education training annually provided or approved by CTAS, beginning September 1, 2018.
- The proposed legislation requires commissioners to complete eight hours of annual training provided by CTAS, beginning September 1, 2024, and further requires a county to pay a \$600 stipend to those who comply each year.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 5-5-113(b) authorizes CTAS to provide the training in person or by any other means available; therefore, the proposed legislation is not expected to significantly impact the training responsibilities for CTAS.
- Under the proposed legislation, the following persons are exempt from the annual training requirements:
  - Certain persons appointed to fill a vacancy;
  - An incumbent in office on the effective date of this act; and
  - Any commissioner after eight years of service.
- According to CTAS, all commissioners are elected on the same four-year cycle, and the next election will be in 2026.
- To the extent that newly elected county commissioners complete the proposed annual training requirements, there may be a mandatory, recurring increase in local expenditures to provide a \$600 stipend to such commissioner. Due to the exceptions above, the number of such commissioners is unknown; therefore, the precise mandatory increase in local expenditures, beginning in FY26-27, cannot be quantified with certainty.

- The proposed legislation provides that a county commissioner who does not comply with the orientation training or annual training requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. §5-5-113(a) is ineligible for election or appointment for the same office until such person completes the required training.
- Such provision will not have any significant impact on the total number of individuals elected to a county legislative body.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## **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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