

SENATE BILL 2731

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 14; Title 8, Chapter 7 and Title 16, relative to officers of the courts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 7, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) Effective July 1, 2020, there are created eighteen (18) additional assistant district attorney general positions, seven (7) legal secretary positions, two (2) victim-witness coordinator positions, and two (2) criminal investigator positions to be designated in judicial districts as provided in this section.

(b)

(1) The executive director of the district attorneys general conference and the administrative director of the courts shall meet and prepare a report that contains the directors' recommendations as to the specific judicial districts in which the additional assistant district attorney general positions, legal secretary positions, victim-witness coordinator positions, and criminal investigator positions created pursuant to subsection (a) should be designated. The report must be prepared in consultation with the comptroller.

(2) By September 1, 2020, the executive director of the district attorneys general conference shall file a report prepared pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) with the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the judiciary committee of the senate, and the chair of the judiciary committee of the house of representatives. Upon the filing of such report, the district

attorneys general recommended by the report to receive additional assistant district attorney general positions, legal secretary positions, victim-witness coordinator positions, and criminal investigator positions are authorized to interview and employ persons to fill the positions.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 14, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) Effective July 1, 2020, there are created seven (7) additional assistant district public defender positions, seventeen (17) legal secretary positions, and nine (9) social worker positions to be designated in judicial districts as provided in this section.

(b)

(1) The executive director of the district public defenders conference and the administrative director of the courts shall meet and prepare a report containing the directors' recommendations as to the specific judicial districts in which the additional assistant district public defender positions, legal secretary positions, and social worker positions created pursuant to subsection (a) should be designated. The report must be prepared in consultation with the comptroller.

(2) By September 1, 2020, the executive director of the district public defenders conference shall file a report prepared pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) with the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the judiciary committee of the senate, and the chair of the judiciary committee of the house of representatives. Upon the filing of such report, the district public defenders recommended by the report to receive additional assistant district public defender positions, legal secretary positions, and social worker positions are authorized to interview and employ persons to fill the positions.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.