



March 20, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the compensation of a veteran's service officer (VSO) to be no less than the average pay received by department heads of the general government of the jurisdiction, to be annually increased by no less than the average cost-of-living increase provided to such general government employees. The VSO shall be entitled to the same benefits as general government employees and shall be provided reasonable office space and administrative support.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$980,000*

Assumptions:

- According to the Tennessee County Veteran's Service Officers Association, there are 85 Veteran's Service Officers statewide. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 73 of these VSOs serve on a part-time basis.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-3-110, compensation may be prorated to reflect the number of hours that a VSO works during a specific pay period.
- VSO salaries range from approximately \$13,000 to approximately \$60,000, depending on the size of the county in which they serve.
- Based on the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) salary schedule for FY09-10, the average general government department head salary in Pickett County is \$53,583.60, resulting in a salary increase to the VSO of approximately \$40,000.
- Based on the CTAS salary schedule for FY09-10, the average general government department head salary in Shelby County is \$108,563.10, resulting in a salary increase to the VSO of approximately \$48,563.
- The increase in local government expenditures is dependent on the amount of increase to each VSO's salary to meet the requirements of the bill.

- The impact to local government to raise the minimum compensation of the 22 full-time VSOs by an average salary of approximately \$40,000 per year could result in an increase in local government expenditures of approximately \$880,000.
- In addition, there could be an increase in local government expenditures to provide reasonable office space, if not currently provided, and administrative support for those VSOs who are now working in a one-man office. Such increase cannot be determined but could reasonably be estimated to exceed \$100,000 statewide.

*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:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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