



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard
Executive Director

DATE: 18 September 2025

SUBJECT: District Attorney Staffing—Final Report for Approval

The attached commission report is submitted for your approval. It was prepared in response to Senate Bill 2054 by Senator Jackson and House Bill 2205 by Representative Barrett in the 113th General Assembly, which would have required cities with municipal courts of concurrent jurisdiction to fund at least one assistant district attorney (ADA) position for their district attorney (DA) and granted the DA sole discretion to determine whether the city needed to fund additional DA staff. The bill passed in the House but was referred to the commission for study by the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee. We presented a draft report for your review and comment at the January 2025 meeting.

The final report's first recommendation is unchanged from the draft. Rather than the bill as proposed, the report recommends that **the state undertake a weighted caseload study as soon as feasible to establish the staffing needs of district attorneys based on all the courts they serve, including municipal courts with concurrent jurisdiction.** The second recommendation has been modified in light of Public Chapter 369, Acts of 2025, which authorizes counties to adopt and levy a new court cost on defendants, with revenue required to be "used for providing support services for the purpose of promoting public safety at the sole discretion of the district attorney general." The final report now recommends that **to assist with district attorney staffing needs prior to the completion of a weighted caseload study, each city with a municipal court of concurrent jurisdiction that does not already have an existing funding arrangement with its DA or that does not have to collect the new court cost under Public Chapter 369, Acts of 2025, consider negotiating a per diem payment for DA staff.**