

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 712

(Delegate Jameson, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Charles County - Office of the Sheriff - Salary

This bill increases the salary for the Charles County Sheriff from being equivalent to the salary of a Maryland State Police lieutenant colonel at step 14 to being equivalent to the highest available step for a Maryland State Police lieutenant colonel.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Charles County expenditures would increase by \$8,100 in FY 2007 and by \$16,200 beginning in FY 2008 for increases in the salary, pension, and benefits of the Charles County Sheriff. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The salary of the Charles County Sheriff is equivalent to the salary of a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police at step 14, which is currently \$105,554. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which for the Charles County Sheriff begins in January 2007.

Background: There are 19 salary steps available to a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police. The Charles County Sheriff's salary was last adjusted by Chapter 536 of 2001, when it was increased from being equivalent to the salary of a Maryland State Police lieutenant colonel step 13 to step 14. **Exhibit 1** shows the current salaries for sheriffs in selected counties.

Exhibit 1
Current Sheriff's Salaries for Selected Counties

<u>County</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>July 2003 Population</u>
Anne Arundel	\$92,527	506,620
Calvert	64,500	84,110
Charles	105,554	133,049
Howard ¹	65,000	264,265
Montgomery	107,758	918,881
Prince George's	101,000	838,716
St. Mary's	68,000	92,754

¹Increases to \$66,500 in calendar 2006.

Local Fiscal Effect: The current salary for the Charles County Sheriff is equivalent to that of a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police at step 14 – \$105,554. For illustrative purposes only, assuming a 2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for fiscal 2006 for step 14 for a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police, the salary would be \$107,665 in fiscal 2006. Currently, the highest available step for a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police pays \$116,372. For illustrative purposes only, assuming a 2% COLA for fiscal 2006, the salary available at the highest step for a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police would be \$118,699 in fiscal 2006.

Assuming the fiscal 2006 pay rates for a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police remain constant for future years, the difference between the salary at step 14 and the salary at the highest available step would be \$11,034 in fiscal 2007, and each year thereafter.

Based on these assumptions, the salary of the Charles County Sheriff would increase by \$5,517 in fiscal 2007, reflecting the six-month period between January and June 2007. Assuming a 27% pension contribution rate and a 20% benefits contribution rate, as advised by the county, Charles County expenditures would increase by \$8,110 for salary (\$5,517), pension (\$1,490), and benefits (\$1,103) in fiscal 2007. In fiscal 2008, Charles County expenditures would increase by \$16,220 for salary (\$11,034), pension (\$2,979), and benefits (\$2,207). While these calculations are for illustrative purposes only, actual expenditures would depend on any adjustment made to the salary available at the highest step for a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland State Police.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2005
n/hlb

Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510