

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 611

(Charles County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Charles County - Salary of State's Attorney

This bill increases the salary of the Charles County State's Attorney from 90% of the salary of a District Court judge to the full salary of a circuit court judge, beginning with the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Charles County personnel expenditures would increase by \$14,300 in FY 2007 and by \$34,100 beginning in FY 2009. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The salary of the Charles County State's Attorney is set at 90% of a District Court judge's salary. Salary adjustments for local officials take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which for the Charles County State's Attorney is December 2006.

Background: The salary of the Charles County State's Attorney was last changed by Chapter 263 of 1998, when it was set at 90% of a District Court judge's salary. Prior to Chapter 263, the salary amount was statutorily set by the General Assembly. Full salary increases for District Court and circuit court judges as recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission were implemented by operation of law following the 2005 session of the General Assembly. As such, the salaries of District Court judges and

circuit court judges increased as outlined in **Exhibit 1**. **Exhibit 2** shows the fiscal 2005 actual salaries for the State's Attorneys in surrounding counties.

Exhibit 1
Salaries of District Court and Circuit Court Judges
Fiscal 2006 - 2009

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>District Court Judge's Salary</u>	<u>Circuit Court Judge's Salary</u>
2006	\$114,502	\$123,352
2007	118,502	128,352
2008	122,752	134,352
2009	127,252	140,352

Exhibit 2
State's Attorneys' Salaries for Selected Maryland Counties
Fiscal 2005 Actuals

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Anne Arundel	508,572	\$123,963
Calvert	86,474	101,027
Charles	135,807	101,027
Montgomery	921,690	142,110
Prince George's	842,967	119,900
St. Mary's	94,921	101,027

Source: *Compensation Survey of Maryland Local Governments, FY 2005*, Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland

Local Fiscal Effect: Charles County advises that although the next term of office for the Charles County State's Attorney begins in December 2006, the salary increase of the Charles County State's Attorney would not take effect until the first pay period in January 2007. As such, Charles County personnel expenditures could increase by

\$14,322 in fiscal 2007, reflecting the six-month period from January through June 2007 and by \$34,089 in fiscal 2009. The estimate assumes a constant fringe benefit employer contribution rate of 32% as advised by the county, and it assumes that the salary of a District Court judge will remain constant beyond fiscal 2009. To the extent that a circuit court judge's salary is adjusted after fiscal 2009, the salary of the Charles County State's Attorney would adjust accordingly. **Exhibit 3** shows the compensation increase for the Charles County State's Attorney for fiscal 2007 through 2011.

Exhibit 3
Increased Compensation for the Charles County State's Attorney
Fiscal 2007 - 2011

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salary Increase</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2007	\$10,850	\$3,472	\$14,322
2008	23,875	7,640	31,515
2009	25,825	8,264	34,089
2010	25,825	8,264	34,089
2011	25,825	8,264	34,089

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 386 (Senator Middleton) – Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Charles County; *Compensation Survey of Maryland Local Governments, FY 2005*, Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2006
ncs/hlb

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