

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 111

(Delegate Eckardt, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Dorchester County - Sheriff - Salary

This bill increases the annual salary of the Dorchester County Sheriff from \$65,500 to \$85,000 in calendar 2011. The annual salary increases by \$1,500 each year until the sheriff's salary is set at \$89,500 for calendar 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Dorchester County expenditures increase by \$13,900 in FY 2011 and by \$34,100 in FY 2015 and each subsequent year. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The current annual salary of the Dorchester County Sheriff is \$65,500. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which is December 1, 2010 for the Dorchester County Sheriff.

Background: Dorchester County adopted charter home rule in calendar 2002; the county is no longer governed by commissioners but by a county council and county manager. The bill replaces outdated references to the commissioners with reference to the county council.

The salary of the Dorchester County Sheriff was last changed by Chapter 419 of 2004, when it increased from \$45,000 to \$62,500 in calendar 2006 and by \$1,000 annually until

the salary reached \$65,500 in calendar 2009. **Exhibit 1** shows the actual fiscal 2008 salaries for sheriffs in Eastern Shore counties.

Exhibit 1
Sheriffs' Salaries for Eastern Shore Counties
Fiscal 2008 Actuals

<u>County</u>	<u>2007 Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caroline	32,910	\$65,000
Cecil	99,695	66,500
Dorchester	31,846	64,500
Kent	19,987	66,500
Queen Anne's	46,571	53,000
Somerset	26,016	60,000
Talbot	36,193	76,500
Wicomico	93,600	85,000
Worcester	49,374	85,000
Average	48,466	\$69,111

Source: *Salary Survey of Maryland County Government, FY 2008*, Maryland Association of Counties

Local Fiscal Effect: The next term of office for the Dorchester County Sheriff begins December 1, 2010. The first salary increase takes effect January 1, 2011. Accordingly, Dorchester County personnel expenditures increase by \$13,850 in fiscal 2011 for salary (\$9,750) and fringe benefits (\$4,100). This reflects salary adjustments for a six-month period (January 2011 through June 2011). Dorchester County expenditures increase by \$34,100 annually beginning in fiscal 2015 for salary (\$24,000) and fringe benefits (\$10,100). **Exhibit 2** shows the increase in Dorchester County expenditures for fiscal 2011 through 2015, assuming a constant fringe benefits rate of 42% as advised by the county.

Exhibit 2
Increase in Dorchester County Sheriffs' Compensation

<u>Fiscal</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011	\$9,750	\$4,100	\$13,850
2012	20,250	8,500	28,750
2013	21,750	9,150	30,900
2014	23,250	9,800	33,050
2015	24,000	10,100	34,100

Source: Dorchester County

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 19 (Senator Colburn) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County, Maryland Association of Counties,
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2009
SG/mwc

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