

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 556

(Carroll County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Carroll County - Orphans' Court Judges - Salary

This bill increases the salaries of the orphans' court associate judges for Carroll County from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and, for the Chief Judge, from \$10,000 to \$16,500. The bill also clarifies that the Chief Judge is allowed \$200 annually for traveling expenses. The salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: County expenditures increase by \$11,550 in FY 2015 and by \$19,800 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each judge of the orphans' court for Carroll County receives annual compensation of \$10,000, which is paid monthly. Each judge is also allowed \$200 annually for travelling expenses, which is payable quarterly.

Background: Under the Maryland Constitution, each county elects, for a term of four years, three judges to the orphans' court of their respective jurisdictions, with the exception of Montgomery and Harford counties, where a circuit court judge sits as the orphans' court. The orphans' courts are the State's probate courts. The courts supervise the handling of estates and also have certain jurisdiction over the guardianship of minors and their property. The salaries of orphans' court judges are paid by county governments

and Baltimore City (except for Harford and Montgomery counties because the State pays the salaries of circuit court judges).

Local Expenditures: County expenditures increase by approximately \$11,550 in fiscal 2015 and by \$19,800 annually thereafter. This estimate accounts for the salary increases taking effect in early December 2014, the beginning of the next term of office, and includes fringe benefits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 211 (Carroll County Delegation) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Carroll County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Register of Wills, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2014
ncs/kdm

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