

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 146

(Harford County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Harford County - State's Attorney - Salary

This bill alters the annual salary for the Harford County State's Attorney to be equal to the salary of a judge of the District Court of Maryland. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County expenditures increase by \$13,700 in FY 2019 and by a maximum of \$22,700 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Harford County State's Attorney's salary was last adjusted in statute by Chapter 184 of 2005, when it was increased from \$90,000 to \$98,500 effective January 1, 2007. However, Chapter 184 also established that the salary is to be adjusted annually every July 1 to reflect the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as long as the adjustment to the State's Attorney's salary does not exceed 3% in any fiscal year. Accordingly, the current salary of the Harford County State's Attorney is \$114,587. **Exhibit 1** shows the salary for the State's Attorney in each county based on fiscal 2016 data, as provided by the Maryland Association of Counties. The current salary for a District Court judge is \$141,333.

Exhibit 1
State's Attorney Salaries
Fiscal 2016

County	Salary
Allegany	\$122,850
Anne Arundel	170,518
Baltimore City	238,772
Baltimore	202,165
Calvert	122,850
Caroline	113,066
Carroll	113,067
Cecil	134,267
Charles	140,352
Dorchester	113,066
Frederick	154,333
Garrett	113,066
Harford	114,587
Howard	141,333
Kent	109,200
Montgomery	205,688
Prince George's	199,000
Queen Anne's	131,808
St. Mary's	114,526
Somerset	98,000
Talbot	109,200
Washington	114,527
Wicomico	122,850
Worcester	118,627

Source: Maryland Association of Counties

Article III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution prohibits the salary or compensation of any public officer from being increased or diminished during the individual's term of office, except those whose full term is fixed by law in excess of four years.

Local Expenditures: County expenditures increase by \$13,689 in fiscal 2019 and by a maximum of \$22,687 annually thereafter. The estimate accounts for the salary increase taking effect in January 2019, the beginning of the next term of office, and includes fringe benefits. The estimate also takes into account the salary increases that would otherwise take place under current law using projected CPI and is based on the current salary of a District Court judge. Because future increases in judicial salaries depend on any recommendations proposed by the Judicial Compensation Commission and subsequent action by the General Assembly, the estimate does not account for any additional increase in the salary of a District Court judge. To the extent that judicial salaries increase and/or CPI differs from current projections, expenditures increase or decrease accordingly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2016
min/kdm

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