

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1500 (Harford County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Sheriff of Harford County - Salary

This bill alters the annual salary of the Harford County Sheriff as follows: (1) beginning December 1, 2018, the annual salary is \$136,000; and (2) on or after July 1, 2019, the salary is adjusted annually to reflect the annual change in the consumer price index (CPI), as specified. 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: County expenditures increase by \$10,400 in FY 2019 and by a minimum of \$18,300 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Harford County Sheriff's salary was last adjusted in statute by Chapter 185 of 2005, when it was increased from \$90,000 to \$98,500, effective January 1, 2007. However, Chapter 185 also established that the salary is to be adjusted annually every July 1 to reflect the annual change in CPI, as long as the adjustment to the sheriff's salary does not exceed 3% in any fiscal year. Accordingly, the salary of the Harford County Sheriff is \$117,645, as reported by the Maryland Association of Counties. **Exhibit 1** shows the salary for the sheriff in each county based on fiscal 2017 data, as provided by the Maryland Association of Counties.

Exhibit 1
Sheriff Salaries
Fiscal 2017

County	Salary
Allegany	\$70,000
Anne Arundel	132,999
Baltimore City	132,600
Baltimore	90,000
Calvert	90,480
Caroline	80,000
Carroll	90,001
Cecil	75,075
Charles	124,387
Dorchester	89,500
Frederick	125,000
Garrett	85,000
Harford	117,645
Howard	91,000
Kent	85,000
Montgomery	159,786
Prince George's	154,333
Queen Anne's	132,000
St. Mary's	102,000
Somerset	60,000
Talbot	79,567
Washington	88,000
Wicomico	95,000
Worcester	88,000

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. According to a Letter from the Counsel to the General Assembly, dated January 17, 1978, salary increases that are to be implemented over a period of time are permissible if implemented before the beginning of the term.

Local Expenditures: County expenditures increase by \$10,411 in fiscal 2019 and by a minimum of \$18,300 annually thereafter. The estimate includes fringe benefits, uses current CPI projections, and assumes that the next term of office begins December 1, 2018.

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 - March 8, 2017
mm/kdm Third Reader - March 21, 2017

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