

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1177

(Harford County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Sheriff of Harford County - Salary

This bill specifies that the salary of the Harford County Sheriff is equal to the salary of a lieutenant colonel of the Maryland State Police (DSP), at the highest available step that is in effect on the day prior to the day that the sheriff begins a term of office. Any change in DSP's salary schedule during a term of office may not apply to the incumbent sheriff, but the changed rate will take effect at the beginning of the next term. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary structure specified in the bill takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County expenditures increase by approximately \$14,400 in FY 2023 and by approximately \$25,200 annually thereafter. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 736 of 2017 altered the annual salary of the Harford County Sheriff so that (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. The current salary of the Harford County Sheriff is \$138,598.

Exhibit 1 shows the salary for the sheriff in other jurisdictions based on fiscal 2019 data, as provided by the Maryland Association of Counties.

Exhibit 1
Sheriff Salaries
Fiscal 2019

County	Salary
Allegany	\$74,263
Anne Arundel	132,999
Baltimore City	138,006
Baltimore	90,000
Calvert	90,480
Caroline	80,000
Carroll	90,001
Cecil	82,075
Charles	143,036
Dorchester	89,500
Frederick	125,000
Garrett	85,000
Howard	97,000
Kent	85,000
Montgomery	161,495
Prince George's	154,333
Queen Anne's	132,000
St. Mary's	106,120
Somerset	60,000
Talbot	81,954
Washington	100,000
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 Fiscal Effect: Harford expenditures increase by \$14,370 in fiscal 2023 and by approximately \$25,000 annually thereafter. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary is not altered until the next term of office. The estimate accounts for the increase taking effect the first week in December 2022, includes fringe benefits, uses current CPI projections, and is based on the current salary for a lieutenant colonel of DSP at Step 18 (\$165,596).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 599 (Harford County Senators) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Harford County; Department of State Police; Maryland Association of Counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2020
rh/jkb Third Reader - March 12, 2020

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