

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 533

(Frederick County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Frederick County - Sheriff - Salary

This bill alters the annual salary of the Frederick County Sheriff by establishing that the salary is \$125,000 for calendar 2026, \$175,00 for calendar 2027, and for calendar 2028 and beyond, equivalent to 82.5% of the Frederick County State’s Attorney’s annual salary, including any increments and salary adjustments, as specified. Any change in the salary of the State’s Attorney during the sheriff’s term of office may not apply during the sheriff’s current term of office, but the changed rate takes 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: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Frederick County expenditures increase by approximately \$33,700 in FY 2027 and by at least \$92,000 annually thereafter. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The current salary of the Frederick County Sheriff is \$125,000. The current salary of the Frederick County State’s Attorney is \$234,993. Under statute, the salary of the State’s Attorney must be increased *annually* in a percentage equal to the average annual increment and salary adjustment given to Frederick County employees over the State’s Attorney’s prior four-year term. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

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: Frederick County expenditures increase by approximately \$33,750 in fiscal 2027, and by at least \$92,011 annually thereafter. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary is not altered until the next term of office. Absent additional information from the county, this estimate (1) reflects the next term of office beginning December 2026; (2) assumes that the Frederick County State's Attorney's salary increases by 3.5% annually per calendar year, with a related increase to the sheriff's salary; and (3) includes fringe benefits as provided by the county.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 626 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Frederick County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2026
jg/jkb Third Reader - March 6, 2026

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