



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

SHERIFF JIM FREDERICKS

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Environmental & Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **Support for House Bill 995 (HB0995)**
Sheriff's Salary – Anne Arundel County

Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to supply testimony in support of House Bill 995. The intent of this bill is to set the Sheriff's salary for Anne Arundel County to a scale, so that sheriffs and legislators should not have to address this issue in the future. The salary change, which is an 18 percent increase, would occur for the position after the 2022 election cycle, and does not affect the current salary structure. Sheriff's offices and the range of duties vary in size and scope in the 23 counties and City of Baltimore. In all counties though, the Sheriff is a full-time law enforcement administrator. Throughout the state, the Sheriff's salary is set in many different ways including indexing it to Maryland State Police positions, State's Attorneys, Police Departments, and some are set by local ordinance.

This bill would index the sheriff's annual salary to that of a senior captain in the county police department for a few simple reasons. The Police Captain position is a similar comparator to Sheriff regarding the number of people they supervise. The Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office is an agency of about 115 people, which is similar in size to the 4 police districts in the county which are managed by a Captain. The Sheriff's responsibilities are greater, in that, the Sheriff oversees all aspects of the agency, as does the Chief of Police. However, limiting the salary scale to that of a Captain is an acknowledgement of the difference in the size of the 2 law enforcement agencies in Anne Arundel County.

Additionally, tying the Sheriff's salary to the Captain scale was the standard until it was changed by my predecessor less than 10 years ago. I am told that the previous Sheriff did so to avoid having their salary reduced during leaner years, when department budgets were being cut.

I believe that indexing the Sheriff's salary in this manner is fair to the local jurisdiction and its taxpayers, it is fair to future Sheriff's, and it will hopefully eliminate the burden of taking up important legislative time in the future. Thank you again for your time.

Respectfully,

Jim Fredericks
Sheriff – Anne Arundel County