

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 747 (Senator Stone)  
Finance

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**Baltimore County - Workers' Compensation - Deputy Sheriffs - Presumption**

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This bill extends the presumption of compensability under the workers' compensation law to include deputy sheriffs employed by Baltimore County who suffer from heart disease or hypertension resulting in partial or total disability. Such benefits are in addition to any retirement benefits the deputy sheriff may be entitled to receive.

The bill provides that a deputy sheriff of Baltimore County is entitled to such benefits only to the extent that the condition of the individual's hypertension or heart disease is more severe after employment than before and specifies certain medical disclosure requirements which must be met by current and future employees to be eligible for benefits.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The State does not contribute to workers' compensation coverage for deputy sheriffs of Baltimore County.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore County expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** Since Baltimore County is self-insured for workers' compensation coverage, expenditures could increase to the extent that additional workers' compensation claims are paid to deputy sheriffs. It is estimated that the bill would not generate very many additional claims; however, a single claim could be extremely costly. For example, Baltimore County could be responsible for paying a \$450 weekly disability benefit for 40

years or more in addition to extensive medical bills. The Injured Workers' Insurance Fund estimates that an average workers' compensation claim for hypertension or heart disease is at least \$35,000. However, any claim has the potential of becoming much more costly.

At this time, it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the impact this bill will have on the property tax rate of Baltimore County, but it is assumed to be negligible.

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**Information Source(s):** Baltimore County, Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, Uninsured Employers' Fund, Subsequent Injury Fund, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 1996

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