

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 611 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Judiciary

Prince George's County - State's Attorney's Office - Salaries and Budget
PG 321-97

This bill: (1) increases the number of Assistant State's Attorneys that may be appointed in the State's Attorney's Office in Prince George's County from 54 to 63; (2) increases the maximum salaries of the Prince George's County Deputy State's Attorneys from \$86,500 to \$90,000, the Assistant State's Attorneys from \$77,850 to \$82,000, and the Administrative Assistant from \$47,000 to \$50,000; and (3) requires Prince George's County to fund the Office of the State's Attorney at a level not less than the amount that the State's Attorney submits under affidavit and certifies as reasonable and necessary to operate the office and prosecute criminals.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures could increase by \$364,400 in FY 1998 if the salaries for the two Deputy State's Attorneys and one Assistant State's Attorney are increased as discussed below and nine additional Assistant State's Attorneys are added. Further, expenditures could increase an additional indeterminate amount as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small business.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Prince George's County advises that the salary of the two Deputy State's Attorneys would be increased to the proposed maximum amounts, while the salary of the one Assistant State's Attorney who is at or near the current maximum would be increased

by 5% or the office's budget request, whichever is higher. The Administrative Assistant's salary would not be increased because a 5% increase of the incumbent's salary does not exceed the current maximum salary. The additional nine Assistant State's Attorneys would be hired at an annual salary of \$40,000. The estimate is based on the following:

2 Deputy State's Attorneys from \$86,500 to \$90,000	\$7,000
1 Assistant State's Attorney from \$77,850 to \$81,743	3,893
9 New Assistant State's Attorneys @ \$40,000	<u>360,000</u>
Total Salaries	\$370,893
Plus Fringe Benefits @ 31%	<u>114,977</u>
Total	\$485,870
Total Based on 10/1/97 Effective Date	\$364,400

Out-year expenditures would increase if the Prince George's County State's Attorney increases the salaries of the assistant State's Attorneys. Although the actual salary increases cannot be determined beforehand, the expenditure increase could be substantial.

There are currently 54 Assistant State's Attorneys. The Department of Fiscal Services estimates that if every Assistant State's Attorney, including the nine additional Assistant State's Attorneys, were to receive the new maximum salary, the total additional cost would be \$1,273,451, including fringe benefits, assuming the current 54 Assistant State's Attorneys all receive the existing maximum salary. To the extent that the current Assistant State's Attorneys do not now receive the maximum, the potential increase would be even greater.

The legislation also requires Prince George's County to fund the Prince George's County State's Attorney's office at a level not less than the amount that the State's Attorney submits under affidavit and certifies as reasonable and necessary to operate the office and prosecute criminals. The cost cannot be reliably estimated at this time because it is not known what amount the State's Attorney will request. Under the current structure, the State's Attorney's office must submit a budget to the county, which in turn reviews that request and appropriates a sum that may be different from that request. Under the proposed legislation, the county must provide funds at the level requested by the State's Attorney, which could result in increased expenditures.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 1997

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