

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 175 (Delegate Conrov. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Circuit Court Clerks - Salary

This bill increases the annual salary limit for the clerks of the circuit courts from \$64,000 to \$75,000, beginning with the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$180,200 in FY 1999, which reflects a December 1, 1998 effective date for salary increases implemented pursuant to the bill. Out-year expenditures reflect annualization. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
GF Revenues	---	---	---	---	---
GF Expenditures	\$180,200	\$308,900	\$308,900	\$308,900	\$308,900
Net Effect	(\$180,200)	(\$308,900)	(\$308,900)	(\$308,900)	(\$308,900)

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The salaries of the 24 clerks of the circuit courts are paid by the State. Salary increases for these employees are proposed by the Judiciary and must be approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW).

Currently, each clerk receives a salary of between \$59,000 and \$64,000. Because the relevant

statute provides that each clerk's salary is to be set based upon the relative volume of business and receipts in the clerk's office, it is apparent that all clerks cannot receive the maximum salary amount. Therefore, for purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the Judiciary will propose an immediate salary increase of \$11,000 for each clerk (although actual proposed increases could vary). It is further assumed that the BPW would approve the increases proposed by the Judiciary, and that such increases would be effective December 1, 1998, the beginning of the next term of office.

Under this scenario, general fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$180,180 in fiscal 1999. This estimate reflects an annual salary increase of \$11,000 for each of the 24 clerks for the last seven months of fiscal 1999, and \$26,180 in fringe benefits.

Salary Increase	\$154,000
Fringe Benefits	<u>26,180</u>
Total FY 1999 Expenditure Increase	\$180,180

Future year expenditure increases of \$308,880 reflect full year salaries and fringe benefits. These employees do not receive cost-of-living adjustments.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Board of Public Works, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 1998

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