

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1114 (Delegate Cadden)

Judiciary

Anne Arundel County - State's Attorney - Salary

This bill sets the salary of the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney. At the beginning of calendar 2003, the salary of the State's Attorney will be equal to the salary of a circuit court judge as of December 31, 2002. In each calendar year thereafter, the salary will increase by 3%.

The bill is effective January 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Anne Arundel County State's Attorney is supported by the county.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures would increase by approximately \$54,800 in FY 2003 due to the increases in the salaries and fringe benefits of the State's Attorney, two Deputy State's Attorneys, and six Assistant State's Attorneys. Future years would reflect a full fiscal year of the salary increases, doubling the FY 2003 increase, and annual 3% salary increases.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State's Attorney will make \$96,635 in calendar 2000, \$99,340 in calendar 2001, and \$102,125 in calendar 2002. The maximum salary for Deputy State's Attorneys and Assistant State's Attorneys are 90% and 80% of the State's Attorney's salary respectively. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers begin at the start of the next term of office which, for the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney, begins in January 2003.

Local Expenditures: The current salary of a circuit court judge is \$110,500. Assuming that the Governor's proposed 4% cost-of-living increase (effective November 15, 2000) is approved by the General Assembly, the annual salary will increase to \$114,920. If this is the only raise received by the circuit court judges before 2003 (see discussion of judges' salaries in additional comments), the State's Attorney's salary will increase by \$12,795 from calendar 2002 to 2003. With the associated fringe benefits increases (calculated at 12.7%), the increase in Anne Arundel County expenditures would be \$14,420.

The salary of the State's Attorney is not the only salary that could be affected by the bill. The salaries of the Deputy State's Attorneys and Assistant State's Attorneys can be up to 90% and 80% respectively of the salary of the State's Attorney. There are currently two Deputy State's Attorneys who are at the 90% threshold and six Assistant State's Attorneys at the 80% threshold. Anne Arundel County advises that these individuals will most likely receive raises that keep them at the upper salary limits for their positions. If this happens, the two Deputy State's Attorneys would receive salary increases of \$11,516 and the six Assistant State's Attorneys would receive raises of \$10,236. Including fringe benefits at 12.7%, the increase in county expenditures for the two deputy and six assistant attorneys would be \$95,172.

With increases to the salaries and associated fringe benefits of the State's Attorney, Deputy State's Attorneys, and Assistant State's Attorneys, Anne Arundel County annual expenditures would increase by at least \$109,592. Because the increase takes place in January 2003, halfway through fiscal 2003, only half of the increase, \$54,796, would be realized in that fiscal year. Future years would reflect a full fiscal year of the salary increases plus 3% salary increases at the beginning of each calendar year. In fiscal 2004, the increase in county expenditures would be about \$124,000, and in fiscal 2005, the increase would be around \$154,000.

Additional Comments: The Judicial Compensation Committee recently recommended salary increases of \$10,000 for circuit court judges, and cross filed joint resolutions were introduced in the House (HJ 5) and the Senate (SJ 3) to provide the suggested raises. The General Assembly amended the resolutions to provide no raises and the resolutions were adopted. The resolutions also included language that endorsed the provision that ensures that judges receive the same cost-of-living increases that other State employees receive. Aside from the November 15, 2000 State employee cost-of-living increase, the Governor has indicated that State employees will receive a 4% cost-of-living increase in fiscal 2002 (effective January 1, 2002). Alterations to judges' salaries through cost-of-living adjustments or through legislative action in one of the next two General Assembly sessions would bear on

the fiscal impact of this bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2000
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