

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 84 (Senator Baker)

Judicial Proceedings

Kent County - Sheriff's Salary and Benefits

This bill raises the salary of the Sheriff of Kent County. Beginning in January 2003, the sheriff's annual salary will be \$45,000 and will increase by \$1,000 in each of the next three calendar years. The bill also repeals a duplicative pension plan for employees of the sheriff's office.

The bill is effective June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The salary and fringe benefits of the Sheriff of Kent County are funded exclusively by the county.

Local Effect: Kent County expenditures would increase by approximately \$6,325 in FY 2003, approximately \$10,075 in FY 2004, approximately \$11,325 in FY 2005, and approximately \$12,575 in FY 2006 due to the salary adjustment and associated fringe benefits.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The salary for the Sheriff of Kent County is set at \$40,000 per year. In practice, employees of the county sheriff's office receive pension benefits under the same plan as other county employees.

Background: Kent County has no county police force; the sheriff acts as the primary law enforcement officer, responsible for patrolling the county and investigating many of the

crimes occurring in the county. The Office of the Sheriff serves civil process and criminal warrants and provides courtroom security in the Circuit Court for Kent County. The extradition of district and circuit court defendants is also performed by the sheriff's office as is the transport of juvenile defendants.

The salary of the Sheriff of Kent County was last raised in 1997 from \$35,000 to \$40,000. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Local Expenditures: Kent County expenditures would increase over their current level by approximately \$6,325 in fiscal 2003, by approximately \$10,075 over the current rate in fiscal 2004, by approximately \$11,325 over the current rate in fiscal 2005, and by approximately \$12,575 over the current level in fiscal 2006. The increase in expenses takes into account the raise in salary as well as a projected increase in the fringe benefit rate for a new sheriff. The current sheriff, because he chooses not to receive county medical benefits, has a fringe rate of 17%; the county normally estimates a rate of 25%. Repealing the pension plan would have no effect on Kent County finances because employees of the sheriff's office receive pension under a different plan.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 147 (Delegate Walkup, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 2000
drg/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 2000

Analysis by: Mark Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510