

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 447 (Caroline County Delegation)

Judiciary

Caroline County - Sheriff's Salary - Increase

This bill raises the annual salary of the Sheriff of Caroline County from \$45,000 to \$49,500.

The bill is effective October 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The salary and fringe benefits of the Sheriff of Caroline County are supported fully by the county.

Local Effect: Caroline County expenditures could increase by up to \$7,828 in FY 2003 and by up to \$15,655 in the fiscal years thereafter due to the salary increase and associated fringe benefits.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Sheriff of Caroline County is paid an annual salary of \$45,000. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office which, for the Sheriff of Caroline County, begins in 2003.

Background: Caroline 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 criminal warrants as well as civil process. The office provides courthouse and courtroom security in the county circuit

court. The extradition of circuit court defendants is also performed by the sheriff's office as is the commitment of mentally ill patients.

The salary of the Sheriff of Caroline County was last altered in 1994 (Chapter 397 of 1994) and took effect at the beginning of 1995. At that time the salary was increased from \$35,000 to \$45,000 per year.

Local Expenditures: Caroline County currently pays \$48,443 annually to cover the salary of the Sheriff and FICA taxes of 7.65%. The current Sheriff of Caroline County is a retiree and does not receive the full benefits package that Caroline County offers. If the Sheriff elected in 2002 receives full benefits, at 29.49% of salary, the total cost to the county would be \$64,098 per year. This is an increase of \$15,655 in annual Caroline County expenditures. The salary adjustment would take effect midway through fiscal 2003, meaning that only half of the increase would be accounted for in that fiscal year. If Caroline County re-elects the same Sheriff, the annual increase would be \$4,844 and only \$2,422 would be effective in fiscal 2003.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 466 (Senators Colburn and Baker) - Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2000

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