

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 140           (Southern Maryland Delegation)  
Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Circuit Courts - Court Administrators - Seventh Judicial Circuit**

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This bill repeals provisions of law establishing an administrative office of the courts of the seventh judicial circuit and the position of administrator.

The bill also authorizes a court administrator in each county of the seventh judicial circuit (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties). Each court administrator shall be appointed by and report to the county administrative judge, and shall appoint employees necessary to enable the court administrator to perform the duties assigned to the position. Each county government shall provide compensation for the employees, together with expenses for the proper performance of assigned duties of the court administrator and employees.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Expenditures would increase for Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties as discussed herein.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There is an administrative office of courts of the seventh judicial circuit, headed by an administrator. The administrator's salary is paid one-half by Prince George's County, and one-sixth by each of St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles counties. Prince George's County pays the salaries of the administrator's employees, plus the operating expenses of the office.

**Local Expenditures:** Prince George's County advises that the bill would double the cost of the administrator's salary paid by Prince George's County. The budgeted salary for the administrator of the seventh judicial circuit for fiscal 2002 is \$101,136. Under current law, Prince George's County would be required to pay one-half of that amount, or \$50,568. Under the bill, Prince George's County would retain the current administrator and pay the full amount of the administrator's current salary. Other costs would not be affected. The current administrator does not anticipate any reduction in staff or other expenses as a result of the bill. In view of the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date, the cost increase for Prince George's County for fiscal 2002 is estimated at \$37,926.

Charles County advises that the estimated annual salary and fringe benefits for one local court administrator would be \$50,000. Because Charles County would save approximately \$16,856 per year due to the repeal of the circuit administrator position, the net annual estimated cost of the bill to Charles County is \$33,144 (\$24,900 in fiscal 2002).

Calvert County advises that the estimated salary and fringe benefits for one part-time court administrator would be \$21,000. Because Calvert County would save approximately \$16,856 per year due to the repeal of the circuit administrator position, the net annual estimated cost of the bill to Calvert County is \$4,144 (\$3,108 in fiscal 2002). Associated one-time furniture and equipment costs are estimated at \$3,575.

St. Mary's County did not respond to requests for a fiscal estimate.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – January 29, 2001  
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