

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE****Revised**

House Bill 1182

(Charles County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Charles County - Office of the Sheriff**

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This bill increases the salary of the Sheriff of Charles County from a salary equal to the salary of a Department of State Police lieutenant colonel step L-13 to step 14. The bill also makes changes to administrative and personnel procedures in the Office of the Sheriff of Charles County.

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**Fiscal Summary****State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Charles County expenditures would increase by \$14,900 in FY 2003 and by \$25,500 in FY 2004. Revenues would not be affected. The bill's administrative and personnel changes codify current practice.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill requires the Sheriff of Charles County, in accordance with rules and regulations developed by the Board of County Commissioners, to appoint the number of deputy sheriffs that the Board of County Commissioners of Charles County and the Sheriff consider necessary. The bill also: (1) repeals the provision that the county commissioners enact an ordinance which provides for the powers and duties of the Board of Public Safety; (2) establishes that the Board of Public Safety shall act as a neutral third party that must convene at the request of either the Sheriff or the county commissioners to review public safety matters that are of significant public interest or concern; (3)

repeals the provision that the Board of Public Safety shall approve all promotions upon recommendation of the Sheriff; (4) establishes that the county commissioners may provide correctional officers, dispatchers, administrative personnel, and other employees only in accordance with rules and regulations developed by the commissioners and the Sheriff; and (5) provides that the county commissioners must enact an ordinance that will provide a merit or classified service system for which all full-time employees of the Sheriff's office are subject.

**Current Law:** The salary of the Sheriff of Charles County is \$82,000. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which begins in December 2002 for the Sheriff of Charles County. The County Commissioners of Charles County must enact an ordinance that provides for the powers and duties of the Board of Public Safety. The Board of Public Safety approves all promotions upon recommendation of the Sheriff and upon concurrence of the county commissioners subject to the availability of funds. The county commissioners may provide correctional officers, dispatchers, administrative personnel, and other employees only in accordance with rules and regulations developed by the commissioners and the Sheriff. The Board of Public Safety of Charles County appoints the number of deputy sheriffs it deems necessary.

**Background:** The salary for the Sheriff of Charles County was last changed in 1999 (Chapter 88 of 1998). There are 212 deputy sheriffs currently in Charles County. In fiscal 2001, deputy sheriff salaries ranged from \$29,000 to \$68,800. Charles County advises that there are no immediate plans to increase the number of deputy sheriffs in Charles County.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The compensation scale for the Maryland State Police has been renamed; the Maryland State Police advises that step 14 on the pay scale is now classified as step N. The current salary of a lieutenant colonel step N in the Maryland State Police is \$99,921. Accounting for the 4% COLA effective January 1, 2002 for State employees, the annual salary will increase to \$103,918 in fiscal 2002. If this is the only COLA provided before fiscal 2003, the Sheriff's salary will increase from \$82,000 to \$103,918 when the next term begins in December 2002.

Charles County expenditures thus will increase by \$14,895 in fiscal 2003 for additional salary and benefits (16.5%), which accounts for the beginning of the next term of office in December 2002. Charles County expenditures will increase by \$25,534 on an annualized basis assuming the salary of a lieutenant colonel of the State Police does not change.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 21, 2001  
mld/hlb Revised – Enrolled Bill – May 9, 2001

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