

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1203 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Prince George's County - Assistant Sheriffs – Salaries
PG 308-01

This bill enables a commissioned deputy sheriff in Prince George's County to receive a salary set by the county sheriff if the deputy sheriff is appointed to the position of chief assistant sheriff or assistant sheriff.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures could increase to the extent that the county sheriff appoints a deputy sheriff to the position of chief assistant sheriff or assistant sheriff and the county sheriff sets the position's salary above the amount prescribed in State law.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The salaries of the chief assistant sheriff and assistant sheriffs in Prince George's County are set by State law. The salary of the chief assistant sheriff is \$65,728 and the salary of the three assistant sheriffs is \$64,615. Deputy sheriffs are in the county personnel system; whereas assistant sheriffs serve at the pleasure of the Sheriff. The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office sets the salaries of deputy sheriffs. The county sets the salaries for all other employees in the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office.

Background: The Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office is responsible for serving criminal warrants and civil process and provides court security and custody services in the county’s courts. The office also transports adult and juvenile prisoners and is responsible for the commitment of mentally ill patients. The county police force is responsible for other local law enforcement functions.

High ranking deputy sheriffs in Prince George’s County receive a higher salary than either the chief assistant sheriff or assistant sheriffs, even though assistant sheriffs have management and supervisory responsibilities over deputy sheriffs. Under current law, a deputy sheriff must take a reduction in salary if appointed by the county sheriff to these positions. As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the potential salary reduction for a deputy sheriff appointed to assistant sheriff ranges from \$10,205 for a deputy sheriff with a rank of lieutenant to \$25,917 for a deputy sheriff with a rank of major. Accordingly, these positions are typically filled with candidates from outside the sheriff’s office.

Exhibit 1
Current Salary Level for High Ranking Deputy Sheriffs
in Prince George’s County

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Deputy Sheriff Salary</u>	<u>Assistant Sheriff Salary</u>	<u>Potential Salary Cut</u>
Major	\$90,535	\$64,615	\$25,917
Captain	\$82,302	\$64,615	\$17,687
Lieutenant	\$74,820	\$64,615	\$10,205

The bill enables the county sheriff to set the salary for a commissioned deputy sheriff who is appointed as the chief assistant sheriff or assistant sheriff. These four positions are currently filled. If a vacancy arises and the county sheriff appoints a commissioned deputy sheriff to fill the position, Prince George’s County expenditures could increase to the extent that the county sheriff sets the salary above the amount prescribe in State law. Assuming the position of assistant sheriff is filled by a deputy sheriff with a rank of major, Prince George’s County expenditures could increase by \$33,200 which includes fringe benefits. County expenditures would increase by \$22,600 if the appointed deputy sheriff is a captain and \$13,100 if the appointed deputy sheriff is a lieutenant. These estimates include a fringe benefit rate of 28%.

Additional Comments: The General Assembly has increased the salaries of the chief assistant sheriff and the assistant sheriffs for each of the last three years. The chief assistant sheriff salary has increased from \$61,360 in fiscal 1998, to \$63,200 in fiscal 1999, and to \$65,728 in fiscal 2000. The assistant sheriff salaries have increased from \$60,320 in fiscal 1998, to \$62,130 in fiscal 1999, and to \$64,615 in fiscal 2000. These salary increases represent raises of 4% pursuant to Chapter 269 of 1998, 3% pursuant to Chapter 463 of 1999, and 4% pursuant to Chapter 162 of 2000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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