

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1361  
Appropriations

(Delegate Montague, *et al.*)

---

Baltimore City – Orphans’ Court Judges - Pensions

---

This bill increases the pensions of associate judges and the chief judge of the Baltimore City Orphans’ Court. The maximum pension for an associate judge is increased from \$25,000 per year to \$50,000 per year and the maximum pension for the chief judge is increased from \$30,000 per year to \$60,000 per year.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. This bill does not directly affect State government operations.

**Local Effect:** Pension expenditures by Baltimore City could increase by \$22,500 per year beginning in FY 2003, increasing in the future depending on the retirement patterns of existing Orphans’ Court judges.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** Associate judges of the Orphans’ Court of Baltimore City in active service on or after January 1, 1984 receive an annual pension of \$2,500 for each year of service with a maximum annual pension of \$25,000. A chief judge in active service on or after January 1, 1984 receives an annual pension of \$3,000 for each year of service with a maximum annual pension of \$30,000.

**Bill Summary:** Associate judges in active service on or after January 1, 1984 will receive an annual pension of \$5,000 for each year of service with a maximum annual pension of \$50,000. A chief judge in active service on or after January 1, 1984 will

receive an annual pension of \$6,000 for each year of service with a maximum annual pension of \$60,000.

**Background:** Chapter 555 of 2001 increased the maximum pension of associate judges of the Baltimore City Orphans' Court from \$15,000 per year to \$25,000 per year and the maximum pension for the chief judge from \$15,250 per year to \$30,000 per year.

**Local Expenditures:** Baltimore City advises that no current Orphans' Court judges meet the age requirement to retire and receive the increased pension -- although judges may receive the enhancement once they meet the age eligibility requirement. One retired judge, with nine years of service, would be eligible for an immediate enhancement at an increased annual cost of \$22,500 per year.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2002  
lc/cer

---

Analysis by: Matthew D. Riven

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